

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Winona
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 16 1974

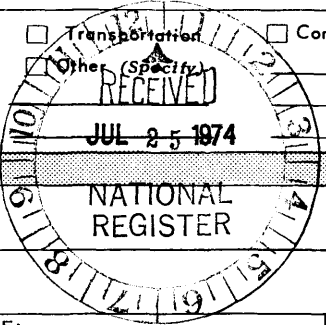
1. NAME

COMMON:	MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
AND/OR HISTORIC:	MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:				102 E 3rd 3rd Street					
CITY OR TOWN:			Winona			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:		First	
STATE		CODE		COUNTY:		CODE			
Minnesota		22		Winona		169			

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)							
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial Bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious					
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific					

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	Merchants National Bank		
STREET AND NUMBER:	103 East 3rd Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	Winona	STATE:	Minnesota
		CODE	22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:	Register of Deeds, Winona County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:	East 3rd Street & Washington Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN:	Winona	STATE:	Minnesota
		CODE	22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	Statewide Historic Sites Survey		
DATE OF SURVEY:	1973	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
		<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	Minnesota Historical Society		
STREET AND NUMBER:	Building 25, Fort Snelling		
CITY OR TOWN:	St. Paul	STATE:	Minnesota
		CODE	22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered (restored)	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

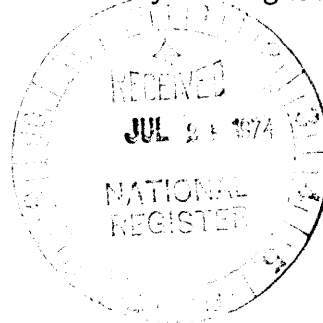
The Merchants National Bank was designed in 1912 by the architectural firm of Purcell, Feick and Elmslie, a major Minnesota proponent of the stylistic concepts of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

The structure was originally constructed as free standing on a square base with the West and South (front) elevations exposed to the street. Both are identical, architecturally, except for the copper and brick entrance along Third Street. A significant exterior feature is the deep set street level windows with the huge translucent stain glass curtain walls above. This is an unusual detail similar in concept to Louis Sullivan's reknown Owatonna Bank. Also noteworthy is the rich and well preserved exterior detailing found at the copper crescent over the entry and at the upper building corners where some of the most impressive "Sullivan-esque" terra cotta in the Upper Midwest is exhibited. All outside surfaces are faced in red pressed brick.

The exterior along the West and South elevations are original with the exception of the replacement of some glazing on the street level and the reconstruction of the flanking entrance light pedestals.

Due to extensive expansion of banking facilities in 1927, 1946, 1961 and 1971, the original structure became surrounded, so that presently is one section of a modern financial complex. The last renovation period in 1971 included complete restoration of the interior after public and private sentiment changed initial plans to demolish the building. A compatible new section was constructed to the east and the older north addition was refaced for compatibility with the new and original exteriors.

The interior restoration included the reconstruction of the teller's cages, the refinishing of the oak woodwork and the general rehabilitation of the interior, all according to the original architectural drawings and specifications. A false ceiling, added in the 1960's has been removed and lighting has been installed to reflect the design of the original fixtures wherever possible. This includes the reconstruction of six ten foot high brick light standards following original drawings and photographs. Interiors in the newer portions have been designed to provide spatial and architectural continuity throughout the complex.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm of Purcell, Feick and Elmslie, the Merchants National Bank of Winona is the largest and probably best example of this firm's eighteen bank commissions distributed throughout the midwest area. It is considered by architectural historians to be one of the important contributions to the development of early twentieth century American architecture, and has received considerable national attention and recognition with its recent restoration program.

Unlike the then prevailing Neo-Classical rural banks, the Merchants National Bank, when designed, typified the concept that "such buildings need not be rigid, formal and lifeless but dignified, functional and economical". Despite its geometrical simplicity, its informal interior arrangement and totally American stylistic character, it suffered no loss in stateliness when compared to its more architecturally orthodox counterparts.

The basis of this design approach, if not universally practiced at that time, is no less significant, since it is rooted in the design concepts developed by Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright in the significant architectural movement known as "Prairie School" or "Chicago School". Both William G. Purcell and George G. Elmslie worked in Sullivan's Chicago office and Elmslie is today credited with some of that firm's most recognized works. Their own work is considered to be the finest of its type to be appreciated in the upper midwest.

Although architecturally significant in its own right, the Merchants National Bank takes on added importance when viewed in the perspective of a surviving style. Many of these structures are being demolished at an ever increasing rate and the Merchants National Bank might well become invaluable not only as an archetype but also as one of the few surviving examples of its kind.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "Prairie School Commercial", Progressive Architecture, November, 1972, p. 96.

Gebhard, David: William Gray Purcell and George Grant Elmslie and the Early Progressive Movement in American Architecture from 1900 to 1920. Purcell and Elmslie Architects, published by Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, March 1953.

A History of the Arts in Minnesota, Part III "Art and Architecture" by Donald R. Torbert. University of Minnesota Press, 1958, William Van O'Connor, Editor

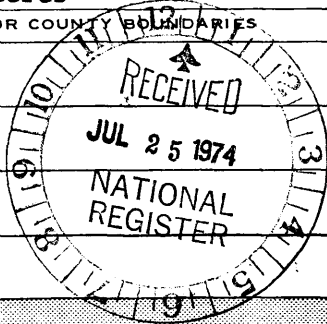
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	91 . 37 . 58 "		44 . 03 . 07 "		
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .					
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Thomas Lutz (in conjunction with the Minnesota Society of Architects)

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **18 July 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Russell W. Fridley</u> Russell W. Fridley, Director</p> <p>Title <u>Minnesota Historical Society</u></p> <p>Date <u>July 23, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>AR Weertsen</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>10/16/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Wm J. ...</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>10.11.74</u></p>
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