

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 23 1987

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Security State Bank Building  
other names/site number NeHBS # CU05-66

2. Location

street & number 403 South Ninth Street  not for publication  
city, town Broken Bow  vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Custer code 041 zip code 68822

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> objects
			<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

James M. Carson 10-19-87  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Alan Byers 11-30-87  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Financial Institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls terra cotta

roof other: tar and gravel

other terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Security State Bank building is located in Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska. Custer County is situated in the Loess hills region of the central portion of the state. Constructed of steel reinforced concrete and faced with terra cotta, the one-story building was erected in 1915 and represents a simplified version of the Renaissance Revival style as employed in commercial architecture. Occupying a prominent corner lot, the building is formalistic in its design and incorporates only a limited amount of detailing, including a prominent wall cornice with dentil-like projections, water table, prominent recessed entry and rectangular-shaped window openings with transoms of colored glass executed in geometrical grid patterns. The building housed the Security State Bank until its closing in December 1985. The building is currently owned by the Custer County Historical Society who plan to use the building as a museum. Structural and historical integrity of both exterior and interior spaces has been preserved. This nomination includes one contributing building.

The Security State Bank is located in Broken Bow (1986 population: 3,979) Nebraska, the county seat of Custer County. Situated in the Loess hills of the state, the county covers a large area of land yet population numbers are contrastingly low. Broken Bow, centrally located in the county, serves as the major population center with numerous small towns distributed throughout the county bounds.

Designed in a simplified version of the Renaissance Revival style of architecture, the one-story building, measuring 21'9" x 72', is rectangular-shaped in plan and has a flat roof. The structure exhibits two primary facades (north and east) with the main entry located on the east facade. Constructed of concrete reinforced with steel, the structure is faced with cream and granite terra cotta. An additional entry leading to the lower level is found on the north facade. Fenestration in the building consists of rectangular-shaped window openings with transoms of

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colored art glass forming geometrical grid patterns. The recessed entry is slightly raised and shows decorative moldings in the door surrounds. The two primary facades show a prominent wall cornice with dentil-like projections and terra cotta beltcourses which join the window units at the head and sill levels. The water table is capped by the beltcourse and is further delineated by the granite-colored terra cotta.

The interior displays a tiled floor, marble wainscoating and oak woodwork used throughout. The massive vault, built of concrete and steel, was designed to house banking records and safety deposit boxes. The basement (concrete floor and walls) is full-size and also houses a secondary vault used for storage purposes. The original tin ceiling remains intact under the dropped ceiling installed in 1980. The bank interior space remains in near-original condition and remarkably preserved.

The bank operated as the Security State Bank until its closing in 1985. The building is now owned by the Custer County Historical Society who use the facility as a museum.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1915

Significant Dates  
1915

Cultural Affiliation  
NA

Significant Person  
NA

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

The Security State Bank Building is architecturally significant (Criterion C), on a state level, as a remarkably intact example of an early 20th century small town banking house, a ubiquitous property type found in Nebraska. In many towns, these banks occupied prominent "corners" and served as symbols of progress and solidarity in a growing community. Their building design, scale and material needed to reflect these qualities and thus, these buildings were many times a key component in the architectural environs of downtown business districts. Stylistically, the bank represents a simplified version of the Renaissance Revival style as employed in commercial architecture. The period of significance is derived from the original construction date (1915) of the building.

Architecturally significant, the Security State Bank building represents a remarkably well-preserved example of commercial architecture, more specifically, that of early 20th century banking institutions in Nebraska. The building is similar in plan and design to other known examples of this property type recorded thus far in the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. These bank buildings for the most part, are of brick or stone construction, rectangular-shaped in plan, one-story in height and have flat roofs with parapet walls, front facade entries, and a prominent cornice. In addition, these properties will generally occupy a prominent corner lot in the business district and display two major street facades showing high quality materials and formalized styling. Banks of this design are found in numerous towns throughout the state, including Abie (NeHBS # BU01-5), Berwyn (CU04-1), Mason City (CU11-5), Dannebrog (HW04-60), Crab Orchard (JD02-7), Beaver Crossing (SW01-9), Garland (SW04-1, listed NRHP), Hazard (SM02-11), Litchfield (SM03-14), Rockville

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	4	4	4	6	4	6	0	4	5	8	3	4	3	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as the east 72' of Lot 11, Block 5, Original Town in Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that parcel of land that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Architectural Historian  
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date August 1987  
street & number 1500 R Street, P.O. Box 82554 telephone 402/471-4767  
city or town Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68501

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(SM05-19), and Bethany, now a neighborhood in Lincoln (LC13:G11-198, listed NRHP). Brick serves as the predominant building material and ornamentation is generally minimal. Those bank structures built after the turn of the century tend to exhibit Renaissance Revival and Classical Revival detailing in their design.

In many towns, banking institutions served as symbols of progress and solidarity in a growing community. Their building design, scale and material needed to reflect these qualities and thus, these bank buildings were many times a key component in the architectural environs of downtown business districts. Although many of the bank buildings recorded in the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey retain a high degree of integrity on the exterior, the interior spaces have been in many cases, severely compromised due to renovation and/or alteration. The Security State Bank building becomes a notable example of a banking facility due to the pristine condition of both the exterior and especially the interior spaces. Remarkably intact, the only alterations made to the interior of the building include the addition of the dropped ceiling (original tin ceiling intact above) and the paneling above the marble wainscotting, of which both are reversible. Due to its high level of integrity, the bank building becomes significant, architecturally, as an excellent representation of the state's early 20th century banking institutions, and serves as a visual record for future reference and comparison of this particular property type in the state. Stylistically, the building represents a simplified version of the Renaissance Revival style of architecture, which gained popularity in Nebraska around the turn of the century. Characteristic features of the style include heavy construction systems employing steel frames and concrete and masonry bearing walls, formalism in plans, raised basements, regular massing, flat or low hipped rooflines, and articulation of facades by means of standard Renaissance elements e.g. cornices, string courses and subtle projections (Panek, 1976, p. 33). The Security State Bank employs many of these features in its design.

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Richardson, Harry. "Day by Day," **Richardson Family  
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**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Form**,  
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