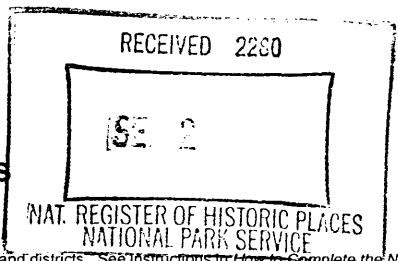


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See Instructions 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 any 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 Bennington State Bank
Other names/site number Luchsinger Building

2. Location

Street & number 15411 S. Second Street Not for publication
City or town Bennington Vicinity
State Nebraska Code NE County Douglas Code 055 Zip code 68007

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] _____ Date September 22, 2006
Signature of certifying official
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

[Signature] _____ Date of Action 11-8-06
[Signature] _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Bennington State Bank

Name of Property

Douglas, Nebraska

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Brick
Walls Brick
Roof Asphalt
Other _____

Narrative Description

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

Bennington State Bank

Name of Property

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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.
- 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 a 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.)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1911-1928

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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):

- 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 for additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Bennington State Bank

Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	737873	4582757	3.			
2.				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 Brad Luchsinger
organization _____ date 7/2006
street & number 7173 N 81st Plaza telephone _____
city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68122

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Bradley J. & Ann Luchsinger
street & number 7173 N. 81st Plaza Telephone 402.312.8206
city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68122

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bennington State Bank

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

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Section 7 Page 1

The Bennington State Bank is a one-story commercial bank building located on South 2nd Street in Bennington. A small community located northwest of Omaha, Bennington was incorporated in 1892. When constructed in 1911 in the main street business district, Bennington was surrounded by a largely rural landscape. In 2006, however, the growth of the Omaha metro area has brought residential subdivisions within sight of Bennington. In the 2000 census, 937 people were residents of Bennington.

Built in 1911, the building is on the main street of the original business district. It is a 22' wide, 40' deep, 1 story structure with a primary façade that faces north.

The structure is a rectangular shape with walls made of rusticated concrete blocks. The front façade is faced with brick and cast concrete. The façade wall is faced with common sized golden yellow brick containing burgundy colored flecks. The trim bricks are burgundy hued and contain golden yellow flecking. In a single course, these darker burgundy bricks form a vertical line from the foundation up to a metal cornice. The burgundy bricks then form a horizontal box across the front façade, terminating in an open square on each side. The outside border of these squares is highlighted with small cast concrete squares. A larger cast concrete square is turned to form a diamond shape within each square. Immediately above this pattern is a metal cornice that features dentils. A cast concrete date stone stamped "1911" is centered in the stepped parapet which is then capped with cast concrete.

The front door is positioned to the eastern edge of the main façade, while a tripartite window set within a recessed arch is centered on the remainder of the front façade. Each arch features cast concrete capstones and a cast concrete keystone. The brickwork above the front door transom window is inset and was installed using a herringbone pattern. Cast concrete is used for the façade foundation and the sills.

The building's lot is grade sloping to the rear to about 4' below the main floor level. This provided an access for the basement level near the southeast corner of the building, above that opening the original floor plan had a rear door for the main level. The sidewalls have three tiers diminishing from front to rear providing a sloped roof. The sidewalls are capped with terra cotta coping tiles.

The interior walls were of 2x4 wood stud construction and finished with lath and plaster. The front interior is constructed of common size bricks. The floor joists brick courses have common size bricks made of concrete. The east sidewall features two 5'w x 7'h window openings although they are currently filled with concrete block. The south wall has a window which is 3'9'w x 6'6"h. The rear door was blocked off for a restroom installation probably in the late 20's or early 1930's.

The integrity of the Bennington Bank is very good. The current property owner has used a photograph of the building taken in 1913 to replicate the original wooden front door and the window. The brickwork has been repointed using a color matched to the original burgundy hue. The side and rear walls have received limited repointing.

The interior of the Bennington Bank building has been modified for modern use and now contains one large open space. A hydronic radiant heat system has been installed and now has 2 ¾" oak strip flooring installed over it to duplicate the original wood floor throughout the first floor. The current open floor plan includes a 7'w x 5'd vestibule for the front entry and a 4'w x 11'd restroom located in the southeast corner of the room.

A 4' x 12' opening has been made in the floor of the main level for stairs to the basement. The original dirt floor of the basement has been excavated and a new concrete radiant heated floor has been installed.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bennington State Bank

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

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Section 8 Page 1

The Bennington State Bank is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its association with commerce in Bennington. The Bennington State Bank building retains very good integrity and remains easily recognizable as a former bank building in this small Nebraska community.

Site History

Peter Bunz II sold land to the Pioneer Township Company in 1868. This company, owned by the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad, then platted a town and named it Bennington. The town was incorporated in 1892.

In 1911 the lot was purchased and construction began for The Bennington State Bank. Its design and use of materials exemplified prosperity and craftsmanship. Peter Bunz II became the president of the bank and his son-in-law Fredrick William Suverkrubbe was the Cashier. The Bank was instrumental to the growth of the community until the agricultural depression caused it to close in 1928.

Peter Bunz II was born 1841 and immigrated to America from Itzoe, Germany. Bunz worked in Colorado and then came to Omaha where he worked as a shoemaker. He purchased a farm, part of which later became Bennington. The town was located on the railroad line, which included the communities of Omaha, Benson, Irvington, Bennington, Washington, Arlington, and Fremont.

Bennington State Bank was integral to the growth of the town in the early 1900's. The town boasted three general stores, two butcher shops, several restaurants, four saloons, four hotels, two implement dealerships, a hardware store, a newspaper and print shop, a cement block factory, a pharmacy, a lumber yard, and a cigar factory. Peter Bunz II also provided 20 acres for the town's use. This park and recreation area was known as Bunz Park. The park was used for an annual harvest festival, picnics, baseball games, dances in the pavilion, concerts, and amusement rides.

Significance

Banks played a critical role in the development of every community, and the Bennington State Bank is no exception. Constructed using design, materials and workmanship intended to convey prosperity; banks were often the core of the downtown business district. Built in 1911, the Bennington State Bank was constructed during "the Age of Main Street Banking" as defined by a Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office historic context.¹

According to this historic context, from, 1909 to 1920, the number of state banks increased from 659 to 1013.² The prosperity created after World War I quickly ended in 1920, and "for agriculture, the decade of the 1920's would be that of

¹ "The Age of Main Street Banking: The Dual System in Nebraska (1899-1920)". Historic Context Report 15.05.03.

² Watson, Frank B. A History of the Nebraska Bank Guaranty Law. Lincoln (Nebraska) Veterans Weekly, 1937.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bennington State Bank

Name of Property

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Section 8 Page 2

depression. Particularly hard hit were state banks with assets tied up in real estate and crop mortgages.”³ In fact, hundreds of banks were forced to close in the decade following 1920.⁴

The Bennington State Bank, constructed in 1911, is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of commerce in Bennington. The presence of a bank in any community measures the success of that community. When this bank was constructed, it signaled optimism and prosperity to its community. For a few short years from 1911 to 1928, the Bennington State Bank helped shape the lives of those living in and around Bennington. Obviously important to the local business community as well as the local agricultural community, this bank was heavily invested in agriculture. Unable to weather the storm of the agricultural depression following World War I, the bank closed in 1928. The history of this small bank reflects the story of many small banks in Nebraska. The physical integrity of Bennington State Bank conveys this significant pattern in our history.

³ “The Age of Main Street Banking: The Dual System in Nebraska (1899-1920)”. Historic Context Report 15.05.03.

⁴ “The Nebraska Banking System is Tried: Agriculture and Economic Distress (1920-1940)”. Historic Context Report 15.05.04.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bennington State Bank

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

County and State

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Bibliography

Bennington Centennial Book Committee

1992 Bennington, Nebraska 1892-1992. Walsworth Publishing Company, Marcelline, Missouri 64658.

Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

1989 "The Age of Main Street Banking: The Dual System in Nebraska (1899-1920)." Historic Context Report 15.05.03, on file, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

1989 "The Nebraska Banking System is Tried: Agriculture and Economic Distress (1920-1940)". Historic Context Report 15.05.04, on file, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

Watson, Frank B.

1937 A History of the Nebraska Bank Guaranty Law. Lincoln (Nebraska) Veterans Weekly, as quoted in The Age of Main Street Banking: The Dual System in Nebraska (1899-1920).

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 6, Block 11, Bennington, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

The boundary above includes that parcel of land historically associated with and that which is still associated with the historic property.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bennington State Bank

Name of Property

Douglas County, Nebraska

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The following information pertains to the first 3 photographs:

Bennington State Bank
Douglas County, Bennington Nebraska
Photographer: Stacy Stupka-Burda, NeSHPO
July 2006

Digital images in the collection of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

Photographs

Photograph	Description of Photograph	View
1 of 3	View of primary façade.	S
2 of 3	View of Bennington State Bank.	SW
3 of 3	Interior view of Bennington State Bank, main floor.	

Supplemental Photos

Photograph	Description of Photograph	View
1 of 1	View of primary façade, ca. 1913	S