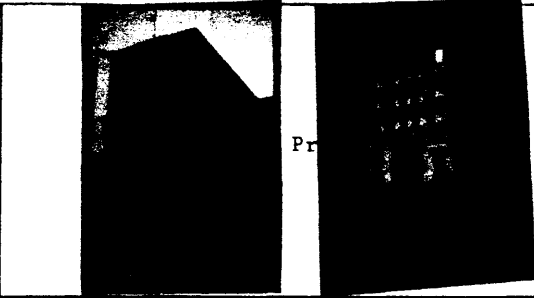


City, Village or Town: Eau Claire		County: EauClaire	Surveyor: M. Taylor	Date: 9-15-81	
Street Address: 131 S. Barstow Street		Legal Description: Blk 18, Village of Eau Claire		Acreage: less than one acre	
Current Name & Use: (First Wisconsin Bank - Eau Claire)		Current Owner: First Wisconsin Bank			
Film Roll No. EC 1P			Current Owner's Address: 131 S. Barstow St.		
Negative No. 17			Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: Zone 15 Easting: 618620 Northing: 4962930 USGS Eau Claire East Quadrangle 1:24,000 Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Facade Orient. W					

S. Barstow Street
131

Original Name & Use: 2 Union National Bank (preferred) (First Wisconsin Bank) (Eau Claire MRA)	Source A	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
	Dates of Construction/Alteration 1930; 1980 Addition	Source A			
Architect and/or Builder: Burnham Brothers, Inc., Chicago	Source A				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master
 Possesses high artistic values
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction
 Is a visual landmark in the area
 Other: _____ None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons
 Assoc. with significant historical events
 Assoc. with development of a locality
 Other: _____
 None

Architectural Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Historical Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Plat Map #8

- 5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)**
- A** Eau Claire Leader, Dec. 14, 1930, p. 5.
 - B** History of Eau Claire County, 1914, pp. 536-538.
 - C** Eau Claire Leader, Dec. 14, p. 4.
 - D** Eau Claire: The Sawdust City, 1972, p. 89.
 - E**
 - F**

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS NAER WIHP NRHP landmark
 other: _____

7 Condition

Excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District: _____

pivotal contributing non-contributing
 initials: _____ date: _____

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible not eligible unknown
 national state local initials: _____

HP-001
1P/17

UNION NATIONAL BANK (131 S. Barstow Street)
Intensive Survey Form-Continuation sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: A vertically oriented and relatively unadorned building, the Union National Bank is a six story rectangular monolith constructed of smooth white Alabama limestone accented at the ground level by dark polished granite. The main facade which faces S. Barstow Street, Eau Claire's major business avenue, is characterized by a two story rectilinear portal framed with the granite that covers the lower portion of the building's ground story. Four rectangular windows - those on the first floor are identified by panels containing geometrically designed floral patterns - flank the prominent entry which is highlighted by a carved panel featuring an eagle. The first two stories of the bank building are differentiated from the upper four stories by the entrance area and by horizontal scoring that continues around the south facade of the bank, where two story openings, which light the bank lobby, punctuate the lower wall surface. Above the scoring on the main facade, each of the floors is marked by five windows. (Note: All of the bank's windows are modern single light plates.) The outside openings are paralleled by vertical bands of fluting which terminate above the sixth story with large square panels of floral and geometric design. Until 1980 the building's name was included in the area between the panels. The three inner windows are recessed and separated horizontally by wall surfaces bordered by a "zig-zag" design. A similar fenestration and fluting pattern is evident on the south facade. Once again the outer openings are identified with fluting and carved panels. Between them are five pairs of windows, each pair framed by fluting. The "zig-zag" pattern is also repeated below each window.

Extending north of the main block is a two story bank addition erected in 1980. The architecturally compatible addition features similar construction materials and maintains the design of the original structure. Also in 1980 the interior of the bank building was remodeled. Attached at the rear of the bank is a portion of a city parking ramp, an addition not considered significant to the nomination.

(1981 photos - 38/20,21)

Significance: Located in Eau Claire's central business district and designed by Burnham Brothers, Inc., Chicago architects, the Union National Bank is the city's primary example of Art Deco/Moderne architecture. Although a simplified and unpretentious amalgam of the two styles, the bank building represents within the community a vestige of the "modern" architecture that highlighted the nation's larger cities. The Union National, described at the time of its construction as "a most imposing and stately structure, standing out in plain, but impressive beauty for its full height of six stories", (A) is also one of the last remaining intact commercial structures in Eau Claire and as such makes a vital contribution to the city's cultural landscape.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

The Union National Bank was organized in 1906 through the merger of two local banks, the Bank of Eau Claire and the Chippewa Valley Bank. The Bank of Eau Claire, the older of the two original institutions, was established in the early 1870's as the First National Bank of Eau Claire. In 1878 the bank was reorganized as the Bank of Eau Claire with F.W. Woodward as president; William A. Rust, vice president; and George T.

**UNION NATIONAL BANK (131 S. Barstow Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (2)**

Thompson , cashier (B,C).

The Chippewa Valley Bank, the successor of the private banking firm of H.C. Putnam Company, was founded in 1885. H.C. Putnam, one of Eau Claire's most prominent citizens and businessmen, was the bank's first president and George Thompson its cashier (B). The Chippewa Valley Bank Building (the preferred name is the Barnes Block) is listed in the National Register (1982).

The first officers of the Union National Bank were William P. Bartlett, president; James T. Joyce, vice president; George T. Thompson, cashier; and Marshall Cousins, assistant cashier. In 1911 William Bartlett was succeeded as president by O.H. Ingram, a prosperous lumberman (B). Later in the twentieth century (1929) First Wisconsin Bankshares Corporation obtained an interest in the bank (D). This additional backing enabled the Union National to survive the depression, the only financial institution in Eau Claire to do so. In 1965 the bank's name was changed to First Wisconsin - Eau Claire.