

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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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 State Bank of Antler  
other names/site number Antler Square Building

2. Location

street & number Antler Square N/A  not for publication  
city, town Antler N/A  vicinity  
state North Dakota code ND county 009 code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 58711

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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 E. Sperry James E. Sperry 5/27/88  
Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer, North Dakota Date  
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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Alvina Beyer entered in the National Register 6-30-88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade - Bank

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls steel

roof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The State Bank of Antler is a two-story, wood frame, Neo-Classical Revival building clad in pressed metal siding to simulate cut stone. It is located on its original site in the central square in the town of Antler and, aside from the addition of a two-car garage on its east side, has sustained only minor alterations to its exterior. Because the plat of Antler has not changed since its founding and because the bank building has such good integrity, the State Bank of Antler retains its historic prominence as the formal visual focal point of the town of Antler.

The building is square in plan, forty feet on each side. Each elevation is divided into five bays, delineated by giant order pilasters and semicircular arches. The building, constructed of 2" X 6" wood studs with diagonal 1" plank sheathing beneath the metal cladding, sits on a concrete foundation and has a low-pitched hipped roof surrounded by a parapet, also divided by pedestals into five bays per side. The parapet, like nearly every other exterior feature, is sheathed in sheet metal pressed and shaped to simulate the cut stone (with a machine tooled finish) of a Neo-Classical building. The only original exterior elements which are not pressed metal are the concrete foundation wall, the doors, and the window sash.

Each elevation has a similar configuration: the foundation is topped by a water table; paneled pilasters sit on a simple base and have Doric capitals; each arch has architrave haunches and architrave moulding; a full entablature, with egg and dart moulding at the top of the frieze, rests above the pilasters and arches; the parapet with paneled pedestals surmounts the entire composition. The main entry to the building is in the central bay of the south elevation and has a simple door which is not original. The other bays on the south elevation have large fixed sash on the first floor and all five first floor bays have two-light transoms. The second floor of the south elevation has two-over-two double hung wood sash in the first, third, and fifth bays (the upper sash are round-headed and set into the arches) and pressed metal panels, with the simulated tooled or chiseled finish, in the second and fourth bays.

The other elevations are similarly arranged. The first floor of the east elevation has a fixed light with double transoms in the southern-most bay; pressed metal simulating cut stone in the second and third bays, again with double transoms; and the fourth and fifth bays are covered by the garage addition. The second floor has two-over-two double-hung wood sash in the first, third, and fifth, bays; a pressed metal panel simulating machine-tooled stone in the second bay; and, in the fourth

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bay, a door cut through a similar pressed metal panel. The door opens onto a wood frame fire escape supported on the roof of the garage addition. The first floor of the west elevation has double transoms in all five bays with a fixed light in the southern-most bay; a pair of one-over-one double-hung sash in the second bay; a small wood frame and plywood vestibule enclosing an original entry in the third bay; and pressed metal panels simulating cut stone in the fourth and fifth bays. The first floor of the north elevation has the tooled finish pressed metal panels in the eastern-most bay and the second bay from the west; a door with single transom and a small concrete stoop in the western-most bay and the second bay from the east; and a one-over-one double hung wood sash with single transom in the middle bay. Centrally-located on the north elevation is a small wood-frame and beaded-ceiling-board vestibule leading to the basement. The second floor configurations on the west and north elevations are like the east (without the door cut through one the metal panels).

The main entry of the State Bank of Antler leads into a small foyer with a terrazzo floor. A flight of stairs to the second floor divides the building into east and west halves. The east half of the first floor has a large open room with a vault at the northeast corner (the ornate steel vault door has been removed) and a small rear office. There is an indoor privy in a closet off this rear office. It is a "one-holer" with a concrete vault beneath and a cast iron vent stack leading to the roof. An oil forced-air furnace has recently been installed in the large room which as recently been sub-divided into rooms for an apartment. Walls and ceilings throughout the first floor are plaster and lathe and floors are oak. There is some recent plywood paneling on the walls and the ceiling has been dropped in the west half.

There is a small landing with a set of double doors about one third of the way up to the second floor. The stairs, with a railing of turned balusters, lead to a central second floor hall around which are situated eight rooms. All rooms except the central west room, which is blocked by the stairs, are entered from the hall through paneled doors with transoms. To convert the second floor to an apartment, the room at the northeast corner was remodeled into a kitchen, a large opening was cut in the wall between the central east and the southeast rooms, and the central north room was divided into a bathroom and a pantry. The walls and ceiling are lathe and plaster and the floors, most of which are now covered with linoleum, are fir.

The basement is divided into east and west halves by a foundation concrete wall. The west half is only a crawl space with the privy vault at its northeast corner. The east half of the basement has the foundation for the first floor bank vault at its northeast corner. Although no longer in use, the old coal-burning boiler is still located in the basement. Because the foundation walls of the building are only about three feet tall (eighteen inches below grade), there is a second concrete retaining wall about two feet in from the east and south foundation walls. There is a wood post-an-beam support system midway between the central foundation wall and the east and west foundation walls.

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The State Bank of Antler is centrally located on a square called the "reserve" at the intersection of Main Street and Third Avenue. Other business blocks of Antler face the bank, lining the streets which surround the square. Thus, as one approaches the center of Antler from any of the four directions, one sees the State Bank of Antler at the center of a very formal arrangement of streets and buildings, unusual for a small town on the prairie. The square is lined with shrubs on its west, north, and east sides and several tall deciduous trees stand between the hedge and the bank. Despite the fairly constant decline in Antler's population and the fact that the bank building has not been occupied for several years, it remains in fairly good condition. The built-up roof is new, paint has been maintained on the pressed metal, and the structure is sound. A noncontributing detached privy is found within the reserve on the State bank's east side.

**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  
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1905

Significant Dates

1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

David Newton Tallman

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The State Bank of Antler is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C for its associations in the areas of architecture and community planning and development. The State Bank of Antler was developed and owned by David Newton Tallman, an important North Dakota townsite developer associated with the Great Northern Railway. It visually represents the formal manner in which railroad townsite developers platted new towns in North Dakota and, being situated in a central town square, represents a configuration which was very rare in the state. Sheathed in pressed metal siding, a material common on early 20th century commercial buildings in North Dakota, the State Bank of Antler displays one of the most ornate uses of the material in the state.

Most settlement in North Dakota was associated with agricultural development. Although some early homesteaders preceeded the railroads, extensive agricultural settlement awaited the construction of mainlines across North Dakota in the late 19th Century and associated branch lines in the early 20th Century. Several major railroads competed intensely for agricultural markets in the state during the period around the turn of the century. Not only did they build branch lines into unsettled areas or areas already served by other railroads, they also developed townsites at regular intervals along their lines to establish shipping points and provide the business infrastructure necessary to draw settlers onto the surrounding plains. One such railroad was the Great Northern, which completed its eventual transcontinental line across northern North Dakota in 1887. In the early 20th century, the Great Northern built a series of branch lines from its transcontinental line north toward the Canadian border to compete with the Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie (or Soo Line), which had constructed a new "wheat line" across North Dakota approximately midway between the Great Northern's main line and Canada. One such branch line terminated due north of Minot near the border and at this terminus the town of Antler was established.

Typically, western railroads had separate but associated townsite companies which bought land, platted townsites, sold lots, and encouraged necessary businesses to locate in the new towns. The Soo had a very aggressive agent promoting new townsites along its "wheat line." To compete, the Great Northern selected David Tallman of

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A  
 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:  
North Dakota Heritage Center (SHPO)

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 14 332980 5426500  
Zone Easting Northing  
C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
D \_\_\_\_\_

N/A  See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Central Reserve (80' x 80') of the Original Townsite of Antler, North Dakota.

N/A  See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The "reserve" is the name given the entire parcel of land in the central square of the Antler town plat. The State Bank of Antler was built to occupy this parcel. The parcel is surrounded on four sides by streets and the parcel is a discrete entity.

N/A  See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Fredric L. Quivik, Architectural Historian  
organization Renewable Technologies, Inc. date October, 1987  
street & number P O Box 4113 telephone (406)782-2386  
city or town Butte state Montana zip code 59702

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Willmar, Minnesota, as its promoter of new townsites. Born in New York and educated as a civil engineer, Tallman moved west to work for the Great Northern at Willmar. He married into a wealthy local family and by 1905 moved into the local banking business. That same year he established the Dakota Development company which began platting and promoting townsites along the Great Northern's new North Dakota branch lines. A personal friend of Great Northern president, Louis Hill, Tallman became the principal townsite developer for that railroad in North Dakota over the next fifteen years. Not only did his townsite company establish numerous new towns, Tallman established banks in many of those towns.

In June 1905, Tallman's Dakota Development Company platted Antler. The layout, surveyed by Thomas L. Lawson of Grand Forks, North Dakota, differed significantly from the typical towns established along Great Northern lines. While most such towns had a simple main street roughly perpendicular to the railroad tracks, Antler had the added feature of an eighty foot square "reserve" on Main Street three blocks from the tracks. Main Street and Third Avenue were both 100 feet wide. Furthermore, the four surrounding blocks (numbers 10, 11, 14, and 15) took a corresponding L-shape. The Dakota Development Company then sold the reserve to the State Bank of Antler of which Tallman was also president. Tallman built his bank building in 1905 on the reserve. A forty foot square, two story building clad in pressed metal, it was a very formal, Neo-Classical edifice befitting its prominent location at the center of town.

A central town square was a popular feature in communities of the eastern and southern United States which predated the railroad. Early railroad towns, however, had the tracks as their focus and often aligned their main streets parallel to the rails. This configuration proved cumbersome because it usually meant that business buildings could only line one side of the street with the tracks along the other. Cultural geographer John C. Hudson has described how, as the railroads expanded westward, a new form became common among railroad towns in which main Street was laid out roughly perpendicular to the tracks allowing industrial activities to concentrate along both sides of Main Street. Within this configuration then, the major intersection in town, at which banks and other important buildings were located, was usually a block or two from the tracks offering a clear separation of functions. Such was the typical configuration of new towns along both the Soo Line and the Great Northern in North Dakota. In very few instances, however, surveyors laid out towns in the central town square configuration typical of the prerailroad era. The Soo Line's Tri-State Land Company platted Kenmare, Plaza, Columbus, and Ryder with squares serving as city parks. Tallman platted Antler, Maxbass, Sarles, and McCumber along Great Northern branch lines with town squares occupied by a single central building. Unlike the eastern precedent, where a building in the town square would be a courthouse or other public building, Tallman chose to locate his bank in the central square in these North Dakota towns.

The bank at Maxbass, sheathed in pressed metal, was originally nearly identical to that at Antler. The bank at Sarles was built with the same size and design, but with a different exterior finish: brick pilasters and stucco spandrels. Neither the designer,

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the builder, nor the fabricator of the pressed metal for these buildings is known. The Tallman banks at Maxbass and Sarles are now in much poorer condition than the State Bank of Antler.

The State Bank of Antler is one of the most ornate and formal examples of pressed metal architecture in North Dakota. After the turn of the 20th century, the material was widely used in the state for an assortment of property types ranging from automobile garages, warehouses, and other industrial buildings, to commercial and public buildings. The pressed metal was shaped to simulate many materials from cut stone and brick to a variety of ornate shingle configurations. Pressed metal was also widely used for ceilings throughout the state and in some instances even as an ornate interior wall finish. There are several other pressed metal buildings in Antler including a small town hall and a theatre/auditorium, both facing the central square. Among Antler's many metal sheathed buildings, the former State Bank is the best representative of important historic events and the most prominent architectural feature.

Tallman's elaborate State Bank of Antler represents the high hopes he and others had for economic prosperity resulting from agricultural settlement along the Great Northern and other railroads in North Dakota. Indeed, favorable weather conditions on the Great Plains and a growing market for grain in the eastern United States and Europe spurred growth, in both individual size and overall number, of small towns in North Dakota such as Antler during the period leading up to World War I. After the war, many of the towns began to suffer due to a number of reasons: drought, diminishing markets for grain, over-extended railroads in terms of branch line miles and numbers of small towns established. Businesses, including banks, began to fail. Tallman had built his empire on his assets, measured by the value of lots sold. Yet even during the boom years, few purchasers of lots were able to pay him in full because the entire network of branch lines, towns, and businesses promoted by the railroads was over-extended. When the boom ended following the war, he was in deep financial trouble. Tallman's little empire of townsites and banks began to crumble and by the mid-1920s he was back in Willmar, bankrupt. Antler's decline was typical. Tallman sold his bank there to James and Martha Newton in 1920. Since that time, the building has served as a customs and immigration office, a telephone office, a post office, a rooming house, and a private residence. It is now vacant.

The ornate and formal State Bank of Antler represents the hopeful aspirations of David Tallman and the many business people like him who invested in the early 20th century agricultural boom in North Dakota.



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"Records of Deeds," book M. P. 621, and book 43, p. 239. Office of the Registrar of Deeds, Bottineau County courthouse, Bottineau.

Hudson, John C.

1985 Plains Country Towns. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Maddox, Dawn

1976 "The Town Square in Antler, North Dakota." Unpublished ms. of a survey completed in 1976 and on file at the State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck.

"Plat Map for the Original Townsite of Antler, North Dakota," 1905 map on file in office of the Registrar of Deeds, Bottineau County Courthouse, Bottineau.

"Tax Assessment Records, Village of Antler," 1906 record in the Auditor's office, Bottineau County Courthouse, Bottineau.