

APR 06 2010

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)



OMB No. 1024-0018

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Nomination 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 Farmers Savings Bank  
other names/site number Farmington State Bank, Des Moines Valley State Bank, State Central Savings Bank, Hillsboro Savings Bank

2. Location

street & number 101 S. Main Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Salem vicinity N/A  
state Iowa code IA county Henry code 087 zip code 52649

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide x locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Babara A. Mitchell DSHPO April 7 2010  
Signature of certifying official Date

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

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 commenting or other official 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 5.28.10  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Farmers Savings Bank  
Name of Property

Henry County, Iowa  
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 count)

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

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE / financial institution

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS /

Classical Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

Stucco

roof Metal

other Stone / limestone

**Narrative Description**

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

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Section 7 Page 1 Property name Farmers Savings Bank  
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**7. Narrative Description**

The Farmers Savings Bank was built in downtown Salem, Henry County, Iowa in 1916-17. The one story tapestry brick building sits at the north end of the west side of the square, facing the square to the east (Figures 1 and 2) (see Images section for all figures, starting on page 14). It has simple Classical Revival details and decorative brickwork. In this small town, nearly all the commercial buildings were constructed around the central square and not all the lots were built on. Salem was plagued by a series of fires in its commercial district from 1886 to 1933, destroying earlier structures. The bank building replaced the corner building that burned in 1915. The series of small brick buildings to the south were built after a 1924 fire, the two-story building across the street to the north was built after the 1886 fire, and the one-story brick building across the corner to the northeast was built in 1924. These eight buildings on the west side and northwest corner of the square comprise the majority of the remaining historic commercial buildings in Salem. Less than half continue to be used for commercial purposes, including this bank. Changes have occurred to nearly all the buildings.

The tapestry brick façade (east elevation) of the Farmers Savings Bank faces Main Street and the square to the east. The single-door entry is located in the first (south) of three bays. The door and transom are replacement elements, though echo the historic configuration. The entry is accented by Bedford limestone pilasters, frieze with triglyphs at each end, and a pediment. A stone accent band also extends across the façade under the windows to create a continuous sill. The two windows on the east elevation have brick pilasters and a wide stone lintel with cornice. The sashes have been replaced and reduced in height. Historic photographs show that the east windows were originally large windows with a transom (Figures 4 and 6). The façade is also accented by decorative brickwork. Two bands of projected brick rows are located on the lower portion of the building. The frieze is distinguished by a course of projected soldier bricks. A brick center square with stone corners is flanked by brick rectangle details on either side across the frieze. A stone diamond is centered in each geometric pattern. The cornice has two projected brick courses with a row of brick dentils under the stone coping.

The north elevation has four windows evenly spaced on the east half and a single window near the west end. The Bedford stone band continues across this elevation, providing the continuous sills for the windows. The windows have a splayed stone lintel with keystone. The sashes have been replaced, with the current windows at a reduced height. Sashes are found in the middle two windows on the east half and in the west window, with the other two windows covered. Historic photographs show that the north windows were one-over-one-light double-hung windows with a transom (Figures 4 and 6). The decorative brick continues around this elevation as well. Two bands of projected brick rows are located on the lower portion of the building. The frieze is distinguished by a course of projected soldier bricks. Four brick rectangles and three brick squares, each with stone corners, alternate across the frieze. A stone diamond is centered in each geometric pattern. The cornice has two projected brick courses with a row of brick dentils under the stone coping.

The west (rear) elevation has been clad in stucco. The four openings include the rear entry, two high and narrow bathroom windows, and a larger window. The entry and large window have replacement elements. The two narrow middle windows are clad in siding within the openings. The south elevation is now a party wall with the two story building to the south constructed around 1924.

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The interior was originally primarily open space in the east two-thirds of the building, with offices and bathrooms at the rear (west) (Figure 3). The counter extended along the edge of the tile floor, back to the main vault areas (Figure 5). The iron cage was removed during remodeling in 1957 (Figures 8 and 9). The building started to be rehabilitated into a single-family dwelling with one bedroom around 2001. It has previously been rehabilitated and some historic interior elements removed after being donated to the Salem Post of the American Legion in 1992. The crown molding around the ceiling shown in the historic photographs remains intact above the drop ceiling.

The tile floor remains intact as a defining feature of the original lobby space across part of the east (front) and along the south part of the building (Figure 3). The counters were removed prior to the residential rehabilitation, though the end of the counter wall clad in marble remains at the edge of the middle window on the east wall. The tile floor retains a marble baseboard in the original lobby area. The remainder of the floors have finished wood, though originally a cork carpet was installed over the wood. Wood baseboards extend around the remainder of the walls. The window moldings have been reused at a reduced height to accommodate the dropped ceiling. Partial height walls divide the east end of the building (Room 1A on Figure 3) from the remainder of the space. An original wood cabinet has been reused on the west side of this wall at the north end (Room 1B). This large room serves as the main living space, with an open kitchen in the southwest corner. The vaults remain in their original locations. The front vault (or safe) is a free standing metal design with a cylindrical safe on a base. It is located in the northeast corner of the interior (Room 1A). The main vault is built into the walls of the building, with walls roughly 20-inches thick around the vault and interior dimensions roughly ten feet four inches by seven feet six inches. It has an east door and a south door. The east door reads "Farmers Savings Bank" across the top, with "Victor Safe and Lock Company, Cincinnati, Ohio" stamped on the door. The south door reads "Customer Vault" across the top, with a larger Victor Safe and Lock Company, Cincinnati, Ohio stamp on the door.

A wall was added from the front of the vault across the space to the south in the 1990s. This is approximately in the location of the end counter shown in the historic photographs (Figures 5 and 8). This wall currently partitions the bedroom (Room 1D) from the main living space (Room 1B). The vault (Room 1C) serves as the closet for the bedroom. The basement stairs are located at the west end of this space, across from the south vault door. Originally, double doors led to the rear quarter of the building, with two bathrooms centered on the space and office space. The large ceiling beam remains visible across the space to the large opening. Currently, the bathroom (Room 1E) is located in the southwest portion of this end of the building. The original two bathrooms with individual windows have been incorporated into the toilet/sink space. The northwest portion of this end of the building serves as a laundry and mud room (Room 1F). Vinyl flooring is installed on the floors throughout this end of the building.

A basement exists under the west portion of the building, accessed by steps near the main vault. The thick brick foundation walls for the vault create a separate room in this space. Originally, the heating system sat south of this area. A foundation wall continues south from the east wall of the vault, and crawl space is located under the remainder of the building to the east. Currently, the basement is used for storage.

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A gable-roof frame garage sits on the west end of the property. The 18 by 22 foot building was built in 2006. It is a non-contributing building on the property. The frame building is clad in vinyl siding, and it sits on a concrete foundation.

Though the building has been modified from bank use with rehabilitation work in the 1990s (by the previous owner) and early 2000s (by the current owner), the Farmers Savings Bank retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic and architectural significance. It retains integrity of location and setting. The building faces the original town square and sits among other historic commercial buildings on the west side of the square. The overall Classical Revival design remains intact, with brick and stone details on the exterior. The materials and workmanship are clearly evident on the exterior. Though the interior has been rehabilitated, the original layout is discernible through original walls and details such as the tile floor and vaults. The integrity of materials and workmanship have been somewhat compromised with the earlier rehabilitation work, but the work in the last decade has successfully respected the historic elements intact on the interior. The overall feeling and association of the building as a historic bank generally remain intact.

**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.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1917-1960

**Significant Dates**

1917

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

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**8. Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Farmers Savings Bank is locally significant under Criterion A (commercial history) and Criterion C (architecture) for the National Register of Historic Places. This bank is significantly associated with commercial history and banking in Salem from its completion in 1917 until its closure in 1933. The bank was formed by local residents wishing to have a choice for their local banking. It was among a number of "farmers" banks across Iowa that formed during the golden age of agriculture in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Historic elements of the building, particularly the two vaults, continue to directly reflect this history. The bank continued to operate as the Farmers Savings Bank until 1933. A series of subsequent banks continued to operate here until 1992, and this building functioned as the only bank in Salem from the 1930s to 1990s. The bank is significantly associated with commercial history and banking in Salem through this period as well. The period of significance extends from the completion of the building in 1917 to 1960, the 50-year cut-off for the National Register of Historic Places. The Classical Revival architecture is unique in Salem. Few other commercial buildings remain in Salem, and none of these buildings exhibit similar Classical Revival details as this building. The building was carefully designed with details on the exterior such as the Bedford stone accents and brickwork and details on the interior such as the tile floor and marble baseboards. These design elements also reflect the original use as a bank, in addition to the two interior vaults. It is an excellent example of a historic bank building in small town Iowa.

***Significant history of the Farmers Savings Bank and banking in Salem***

The first bank did not start in Salem until nearly 50 years after the initial settlement of the community. Settlers first arrived in this area in 1835, and Salem grew as the first Society of Friends (Quaker) settlement west of the Mississippi River. By 1840, Salem was one of the larger towns in Iowa, with a population around 300. While other communities grew rapidly over the next decades, Salem leveled off and reached a population of 524 in 1880. With the railroad arriving in town in 1881, the Bank of Salem was formed, the first bank in the community. John Bicksler then organized his private bank around 1883. The Bank of Salem continued to be the dominant bank in Salem into the 1910s, run under the management of cashier W.H. Bliss since the organization. H.L. Bacon was the first president, quickly followed by George W. Tyner. In 1899, it incorporated as the Savings Bank of Salem under state law, with Robert Dinsmore, president; R. S. Pease, vice-president; W. H. Bliss, cashier; and O. H. Tyner, assistant cashier. In 1907, the capital was increased to \$25,000 ("Moved into New Home," *Salem Weekly News*, November 13, 1924, 1).

In December 1915, a group of local residents organized the Farmers Savings Bank. The new bank provided local residents with an alternative to the Savings Bank of Salem. The bank bought the lot at the north corner of the west side of the square from the Evans family, which owned the building that was destroyed by fire on November 21, 1915 ("*Salem*," *Free Press (Mount Pleasant)*, November 25, 1915). While they worked to construct a new building at this location, they moved into the former C.W. Davidson's jewelry and music store. They bought the "best fire and burglar proof money safe that is on the market" and "arranged for the use of a fire proof safe to protect our books and valuable papers until we move into our new building where we will have a fire proof vault." On January 22, 1916 at 9:00, the Farmers Savings Bank opened for business. They offered commercial banking services as well as a savings department where one dollar could open an account. They

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advertised that "This is strictly a home bank, organized to home people, owned by home people and managed by home people" ("Notice to the Public," *Salem Weekly News*, January 20, 1916). Miss Elbertine Foss, the three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Foss, was recorded as the first depositor in the new bank (*Salem Weekly News*, February 3, 1916).

The Farmers Savings Bank started with capital of \$25,000. Owen Hourihan (president), C. O. Van Winkle (vice president), C. H. Cook (cashier), W. J. Hunting, Ed H. Lee, John E. Bentler, and W. C. Savage were selected as the initial directors, pending the first stockholders meeting. The *Salem Weekly News* reported that "Mr. Cook has been assistant cashier of the Savings Bank of Salem for seven years and is well qualified for this important position" ("New Bank in Salem," *Salem Weekly News*, January 27, 1916; *Salem Weekly News*, February 3, 1916). The directors were primarily farmers in Salem and the surrounding townships to the east and south. The 1910 census records Owen Hourihan as a farmer in Jackson Township (Henry County), and he was the postmaster in Salem at age 42 per the 1915 Iowa census. C.O. Van Winkle was a farmer in the 1910 census and the local veterinarian in Salem at age 37 in the 1915 Iowa census. The census records C.H. Cook as assistant cashier of a bank at age 47 in 1915. William J. Hunting (age 55) was also a farmer in Jackson Township (Henry County), and both Ed H. Lee (age 48) and John Bentler (age 51) were farmers in townships in nearby Lee County in 1915. W.C. Savage (age 43), a farmer in Salem Township, was the largest landowner, with his holdings valued at \$30,000 in 1915.

On May 19, 1917, the Farmers Savings Bank held their grand opening in their new building. The *Salem Weekly News* described the day and building:

The new Farmers Savings Bank building, northwest corner of the square on the lot formerly occupied by the Evans building, has been completed, the fixtures moved in and placed, and last Saturday was set as "at home" or opening day. Each lady calling received a beautiful carnation while the gentlemen were offered cigars. A victrola furnished the music and many called to inspect the new structure while the cashier, C. H. Cook and his assistant, Rob. Nyberg, took great pleasure in showing them through the elegantly equipped interior.

The building is 25 x 60, constructed of old oak tapestry brick trimmed with Bedford stone. It has private rooms for use of customers including a ladies rest room; a large safety vault and a modern fire and burglar-proof steel safe. The main floor is tile while that of the rooms are covered with cork carpet. Vermont marble is used extensively in the office fixtures, the woodwork being quarter-sawed oak and the walls of Tiffany finish. The building is heated by hot water system and lighted by electricity. Altogether it is strictly up-to-date, and would be a credit to any town of much larger size. ("A Fine New Building," *Salem Weekly News*, May 24, 1917).

The formation of the Farmers Savings Bank in Salem coincided with national events to improve relationships between banks and farmers. As early as 1893, the unique role of a Farmers Savings Bank was noted:

The farmers in many places have erected savings-banks, not only in name "Farmers' Savings Banks," but really erected by and for the benefit of farmers, and managed by farmers. They have not usually any great amount of loose capital to spare for outside purposes, but there will always be a sufficient number of well-to-do farmers. Within a certain district a number of them will combine, start a savings bank, and



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pledge themselves as securities for all its obligations. These trustees then compose the board of directors, and by and among them the officers are elected. Of course such banks will receive deposits from all parties, but in investing funds they will try especially to support the farmers, and such institutions as tend to develop farming in some way. The usefulness of such banks is to be found in the fact that the farmer is more likely to save when he has his own savings-bank; and these banks tend also to make him less dependent on the capitalist, whose interests necessarily will often differ from those of the farmer. (Teisen 1893: 63).

By 1912, a national problem of agricultural credit existed, and a "banker-farmer" movement started across the country to provide financing to farmers to invest in improvements to farms to increase the productivity of farms in the country. The American Banking Association's Agricultural Commission launched *The Banker-Farmer* in fall 1913, a monthly publication to emphasize the responsibility of country bankers to encourage farmers to contribute to soil and bank reserves. Through efforts of several persons and publicity in journals of the period, the Federal Farm Loan Act was enacted in July 1916 (Shulman 1999: Ch. 4, p. 14, 23, 34). The goal of the legislation was to provide small farmers with the ability to more easily acquire funds at favorable rates to compete with larger businesses. Farmers thrived through the end of World War I during this "Golden Age" of agriculture. Additional land was acquired to maximize production, depending on the bank for the mortgage (Jaynes 1977: 116).

The Farmers Savings Bank in Salem advertised its flexibility to customers. The bank accepted small, odd amounts, with compound interest to be earned on the amount without requiring a round amount. Furthermore, "A savings account at this bank is always a cash asset – does not have to be turned into money; it IS money" so all residents were encouraged to begin saving and depositing funds today ("Farmers Savings Bank," advertisement, *Salem News*, March 7, 1918). The bank reported balanced ledgers for the period ending on June 30, 1918, with assets and liabilities of \$212,218.96. They reported the value of their banking house and fixtures at \$12,282.93, and they had \$6,151.68 in the vault. The bank operated under O. Hourihan, president; and C.H. Cook, cashier. By comparison, the other bank in Salem, the Savings Bank of Salem, cited a balance of assets and liabilities at \$286,319.41. Their banking house and fixtures were valued at \$4,681, though they did have other real estate of \$3,287. They had \$6,120.89 in their vault. The Savings Bank of Salem operated under R.S. Pease, president; and O.H. Tyler, cashier (Messenger 1918).

The Farmers Savings Bank and the Savings Bank of Salem continued to operate as the two banks in Salem through the 1920s. The Savings Bank of Salem built a new building at the west corner of the north side of the square, diagonal from the Farmers Savings Bank, in 1924. They held an open house for their 30 by 65 feet one-story brick building with Bedford stone trim on November 6, 1924. The present officers were: R. S. Pease, president; E. D. Seamans, vice-president; O. H. Tyner, cashier; Mary L. Tyner, assistant cashier; Frank L. Duncan, book-keeper. W. H. Bliss had served as cashier for 34 years, and O. H. Tyner had been connected with the bank as assistant and cashier for 29 years ("Moved into New Home," *Salem Weekly News*, November 13, 1924, 1). In this period, the Farmers Savings Bank operated under Harvey Pidgeon, president; John E. Bentler, vice president; W.H. Guyer, cashier; and Ruth Simkin, assistant cashier. They promoted saving accounts for children to learn the value of savings early, and their policy that \$1 opened a savings account (*The Cauldron*, Salem school yearbook, 1927, Lewelling House collection, Salem).

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By late 1929, the country began to feel the impacts of the Great Depression, following the stock market problems in September and October. Some small banks began to feel the impacts on the monetary system early. The *Burlington Hawk-Eye* reported on February 8, 1930 that "Frozen assets and depleted reserves were blamed for the failure of the Savings Bank of Salem to open its doors today. The state banking department took control of the bank, which had capital of \$25,000 and deposits of \$200,000" ("Salem," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, February 8, 1930, 7). The closure created concerns over the Farmers Savings Bank as well. In response, the directors and stockholders used personal names to establish credit of \$100,000 for the bank, in addition to their general deposits. Only a few hundred were reported to have been drawn out following the closure of the Savings Bank of Salem, which was scheduled to reopen ("Salem Savings Bank to Reopen," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, February 11, 1930, 3). The 1931 Iowa Insurance Service Bureau map of Salem shows the Farmers Savings Bank in its same location at the north corner of the west side of the square. The Savings Bank of Salem no longer operated in its building at the west corner of the north side of the square. Another bank is shown in the middle of the block on the north side. It was around this period that the Savings Bank of Salem closed.

Banks continued to be watched closely over the next few years as financial problems continued across the country. The March 25, 1931 report indicated that assets and liabilities balanced at the Farmers Savings Bank at \$140,174.91. W.C. Savage was vice president and W.H. Guyer was cashier at the time ("Statement of the Condition of the Farmers Savings Bank," *Salem Weekly News*, April 1, 1931, 1). They advertised services specifically for farmers as well, such as a direct connection with Chicago's stock yards through correspondents there to deposit sales funds as quickly as possible into bank accounts. They also offered farm loans and insurance ("From Feed Lot to Bank Account the Quickest Way," *Salem Weekly News*, April 16, 1931, 1).

The Farmers Savings Bank in Salem made statewide news in 1933 as one of ten banks placed in the hands of the state banking department on January 25 to be reopened under new state law. The banks were closed under a "waiver holiday." The banks "re-opened today under state management, which insures future deposits as preferred claim pending a financial re-organization of the institutions." Confidence was being restored in communities where the state stepped in to take over the banks. The Iowa General Assembly passed a law to provide that the state step in and take over management of any bank on application of its directors and operate the bank while plans were completed for reorganizing the institution in order to prevent banks from closing and subsequent receivership ("Ten Banks in Iowa Placed with the State," *Oelwein Daily Register*, January 25, 1933, 1). Several notices then appeared in the *Salem Weekly News* over the next few months about service charges for accounts for banks operating under Senate File No. 111.

On June 30, 1933, the Farmers Savings Bank reported a balance of assets and liabilities at \$116,979.70. The bank leaders included W.C. Savage, president; A.H. Masden, vice president; and W.H. Guyer, cashier ("Statement of the Condition of the Farmers Savings Bank," *Salem Weekly News*, July 13, 1933, 1). However, the last bank operating in Salem did not continue much longer. On August 29, 1933, the "Farmers Savings bank closed its doors by order of the board of directors on the advice of examiner Walter Light. It was closed on account of frozen assets and slow collections." Deposits under Senate File No. 111 would be paid in full. A list of stockholders appeared in the newspaper, with W.C. Savage of Salem as significantly the largest with 102 shares. He was followed by F.B. Wineger (Greene, 11), estate of Oscar Keller (Mt. Pleasant, 10), and W.T. Wilmeth (Salem, 7). John F. Bentler (Salem), Victorine Cook (Mt. Pleasant), A. E. Long (Mt. Pleasant), A.H.

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Masden (Salem), Fred Oldt (Mt. Pleasant), John Pidgeon (Salem), Mary Pidgeon (Salem), and G.T. Powell (Salem) each had five shares. Several smaller stockholders were also listed ("Our Only Bank Closed," *Salem Weekly News*, August 31, 1933, page 1). Notices to creditors then appeared in the newspaper on subsequent weeks that all claims of depositors as shown in the books of the Farmers Savings Bank would be allowed without further proof and others must file a claim by October 25, 1933 ("To the Creditors of the Farmers Savings Bank of Salem, Iowa," *Salem Weekly News*, September 7, 1933, 1). On March 21, 1934, the bank building was sold to W.A. Logan for \$1,200 (Henry County Deed Records).

***Subsequent history after closing of Farmers Savings Bank***

The community of Salem regained a bank when the Farmington State Bank opened in 1936 in the former Farmers Savings Bank building. W.A. and Carla H. Logan continued to own the building through this period, associated with the bank. The bank advertised deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. W.W. Simkin, former postmaster, served as the assistant cashier in Salem. In early 1944, the bank changed its name to the Des Moines Valley State Bank. The statement of condition of the Farmington State Bank in the *Salem Weekly News* on January 6, 1944 listed W.A. Logan, president; James Huiskamp, Jr., vice president; J.H. Hanan, cashier; W.W. Simkin, assistant cashier, Salem office; and R.H. White, assistant cashier, Bonaparte office. The same positions were held by the same individuals in the statement of condition of the Des Moines Valley State Bank in the *Salem Weekly News* on July 20, 1944. Through this period, this was the only bank in Salem. On January 2, 1947, the ownership of the property transferred to Carla S. Logan for \$2,500. The Des Moines Valley State Bank continued to operate here until 1955.

The State Central Savings Bank then operated here briefly from 1955 to 1957 (SHBC 1996: 56). The bank was an office of the State Central Savings Bank at Keokuk. Carla Logan continued to own the building, and W.W. (Bill) Simkin remained at the bank as manager in this period. The State Central Savings Bank was the target of an \$839 robbery on December 31, 1955 (Sogard, Bob. "Bank Robber Eludes Hunt," *Burlington Hawk-Eye Gazette*, 1). It continued to serve as the only bank in Salem.

The building underwent a significant remodel for the Salem branch of the Hillsboro Savings Bank in 1957. They held their grand opening here on May 29, 1957. As part of their acquisition of this branch, they installed new lighting fixtures, painted the walls and ceilings, and removed the old iron work on the counters (Figures 8 and 9). Green tinted marble covered all counter fronts and the floors had mosaic marble. Officers included E.A. Hayes, president; and L.T. Harlan, vice president; and directors were: Edgar Hartley, Leo Sanders, L.T. Harlan, and Dewey Phelps. P.W. Hixson was cashier, Wayne Newman was assistant cashier, and W.W. Simkin was appointed as manager of the Salem branch ("Formal Opening of Salem Branch Bank May 29," *Salem News*, May 23, 1957, 1). On December 23, 1958, the Hillsboro Savings Bank officially bought the building from Carla S. Logan (Deed records). The branch office operated here until 1961, when the bank became known solely as the Hillsboro Savings Bank (SHBC 1996: 56). At the time of an attempted robbery in January 1967, Emma Jane Watts was teller, and John Mayberry was manager (Thelma Foss scrapbook, Lewelling House). The Hillsboro Savings Bank continued to operate here until 1976.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 9    **Property name** Farmers Savings Bank  
**County and State** Henry County, Iowa

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On July 19, 1976, the Hillsboro Savings Bank sold the building to Burlington Bank and Trust, who then opened an office in Salem. The name changed from Burlington Bank and Trust to Hawkeye Bank and Trust within the next week, a partial result of the acquisition of the New London State Bank and the Hillsboro Savings Bank — Hillsboro and Salem offices ("Bank changes name here," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, July 18, 1976, 13). Hawkeye Bank and Trust of Mt. Pleasant gained title to the building in August 1987. Hawkeye Bank and Trust continued to operate here until 1992.

On January 27, 1992, the building was donated to the Salem Post #94 of the American Legion (SHBC 1996: 56). They had previously met in the Bicksler Block across the street to the north, and they remodeled the bank building for their meeting facilities. In December 2000, they sold the old bank building to Anthony and Connie Kramer, the current owners. They remodeled the bank into their residence. They have no future plans for work on the building, and they plan to continue living here.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 10 Property name Farmers Savings Bank  
County and State Henry County, Iowa

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**9. Major Bibliographical Sources**

- Census records. Federal and Iowa. Accessed online at Ancestry.com.
- Deed records, Recorder's Office and Auditor's Office, Henry County Courthouse, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.
- Henry County Bicentennial Commission (HCBC). *The History of Henry County, Iowa*. Dallas, TX: National ShareGraphics, Inc., 1982.
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- Jaynes, Peter H., ed. *Highlights of Henry County History 1833-1976*. Burlington, IA: Doran & Ward Lithographing Co., 1977.
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- Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County, Iowa*. Chicago: Acme Publishing Co., 1888.
- Salem History Book Committee (SHBC). *Place of Peace: Memories of Salem, Iowa, 1835-1996*. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1996.
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- Shulman, Stuart William. *The Origin of the Federal Farm Loan Act: Agenda setting in the Progressive Era Print Press*. A dissertation presented to the Department of Political Science and the Graduate School of the University of Oregon in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, June 1999. Online at [shulman.ucsur.pitt.edu/dissertation.htm](http://shulman.ucsur.pitt.edu/dissertation.htm). Accessed November 2009.
- Teisen, Axel. "Some Hints to Farmers," *Overland Monthly* (San Francisco), July 1893, 63.

Research assistance provided locally by Larry Cammack, Faye Heartsill, and Rosalene Kramer.

Preparation of this nomination is supported financially in part by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Historical Resource Development Program (Resource Enhancement and Protection program).

Farmers Savings Bank  
Name of Property

Henry County, Iowa  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>616179</u>	<u>4523529</u>
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

	Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

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 Rebecca Lawin McCarley, Architectural Historian

organization SPARK Consulting date March 31, 2010

street & number 17 Oak Lane telephone 563-324-9767

city or town Davenport state Iowa zip code 52803

### 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 Anthony and Connie Kramer

street & number 101 S. Main Street; PO Box 182 telephone private

city or town Salem state Iowa zip code 52649

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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 (16 U.S.C. 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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 10 **Page** 11 **Property name** Farmers Saving Bank  
**County and State** Henry County, Iowa

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**10. Geographical Data**

***Verbal boundary description***

The boundary for the property is the north 24 feet six and one-half inches of Lot 5 in Block 14 in the Original Town plat of Salem, Henry County, Iowa. The property measures 24 feet, six and one-half inches wide by 140 feet, six inches deep. The boundary is depicted on Figure 2.

***Boundary justification***

The boundary includes the parcel historically associated with this building since the construction of building by the Farmers Savings Bank in 1916-17.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Photos **Page** 12 **Property name** Farmers Savings Bank  
**County and State** Henry County, Iowa

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**Photographs**

The photographs of the Farmers Savings Bank in Salem, Henry County, Iowa, were taken by Rebecca Lawin McCarley, SPARK Consulting, on September 3, 14, and 15, 2009. The digital photographs were printed with HP 100 photo gray Vivera ink on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper (high gloss). The photographs were also submitted digitally, per current guidelines. A sketch map depicting the location of the photographs is found on the following page.

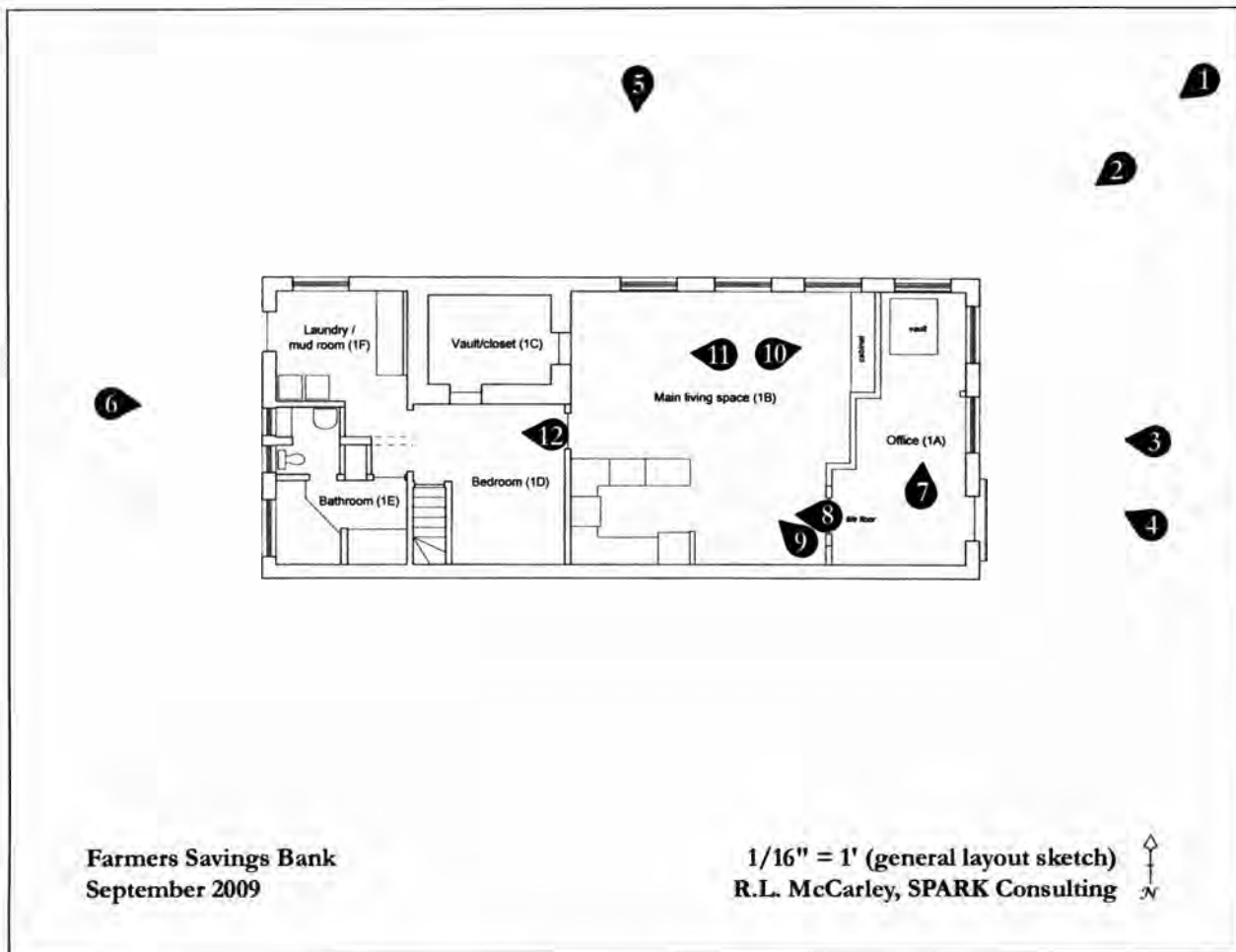
1. Setting of Farmers Savings Bank, looking southwest.
2. Farmers Savings Bank, looking southwest.
3. East elevation, looking west.
4. Detail of brick and stone work on east elevation, looking west.
5. North elevation, looking south.
6. West elevation, looking east.
7. Safe at front of building with edge of floor and counter wall, looking north.
8. Tile floor and marble baseboard in former lobby of bank, looking west.
9. Main room with vault at rear, looking northwest.
10. Window and cabinet from former bank, looking northeast.
11. East door of large vault, looking west.
12. South side of main vault looking west past basement door into rear section of building.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Photos **Page** 13 **Property name** Farmers Savings Bank  
**County and State** Henry County, Iowa



**Photograph key**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Images Page 14 Property name Farmers Savings Bank

County and State Henry County, Iowa

**Location Map (Figure 1)**



*(2008 aerial photograph courtesy of Planning Department, Henry County, Iowa)*

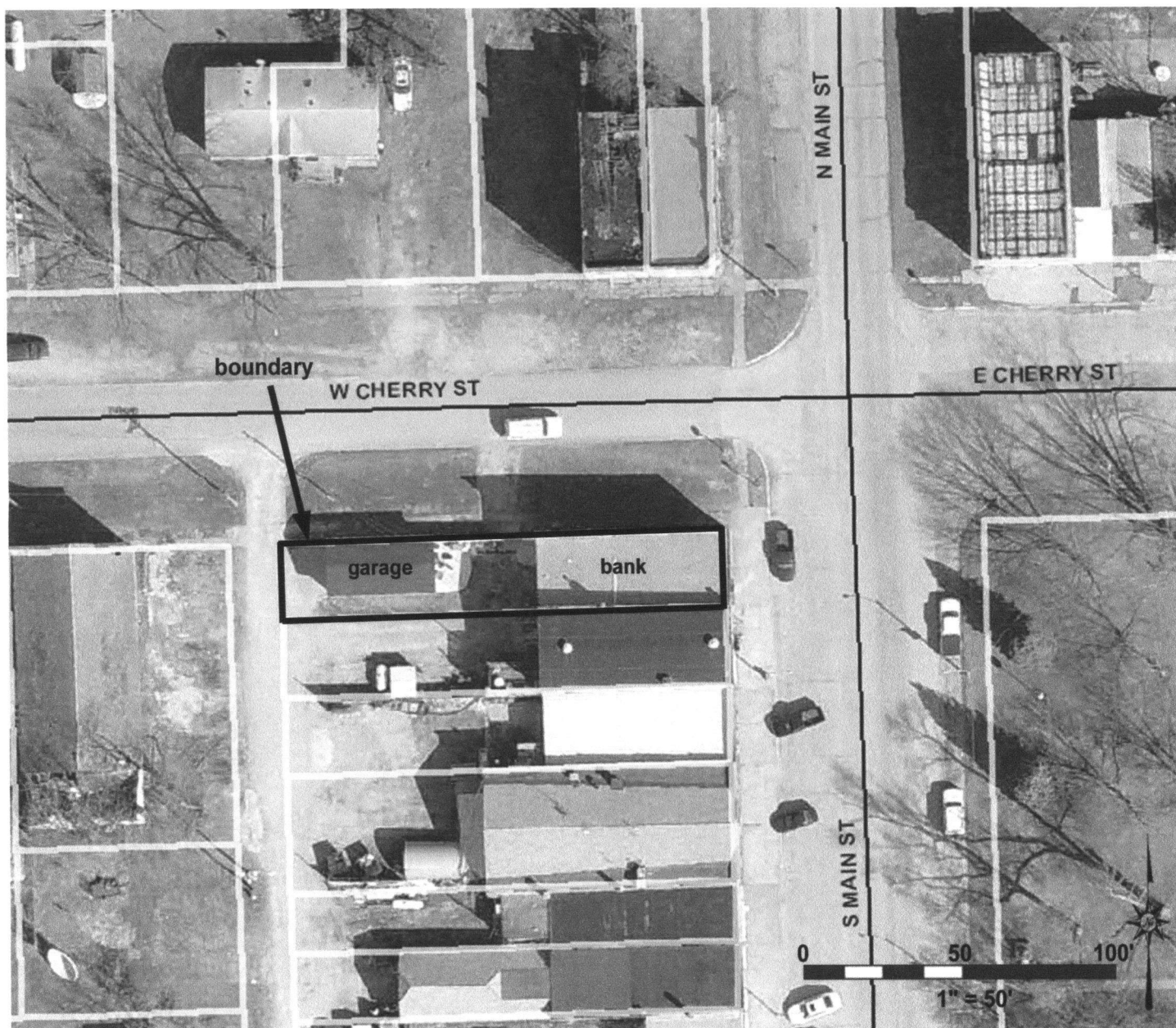
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Images Page 15 Property name Farmers Savings Bank

County and State Henry County, Iowa

Site plan (Figure 2)



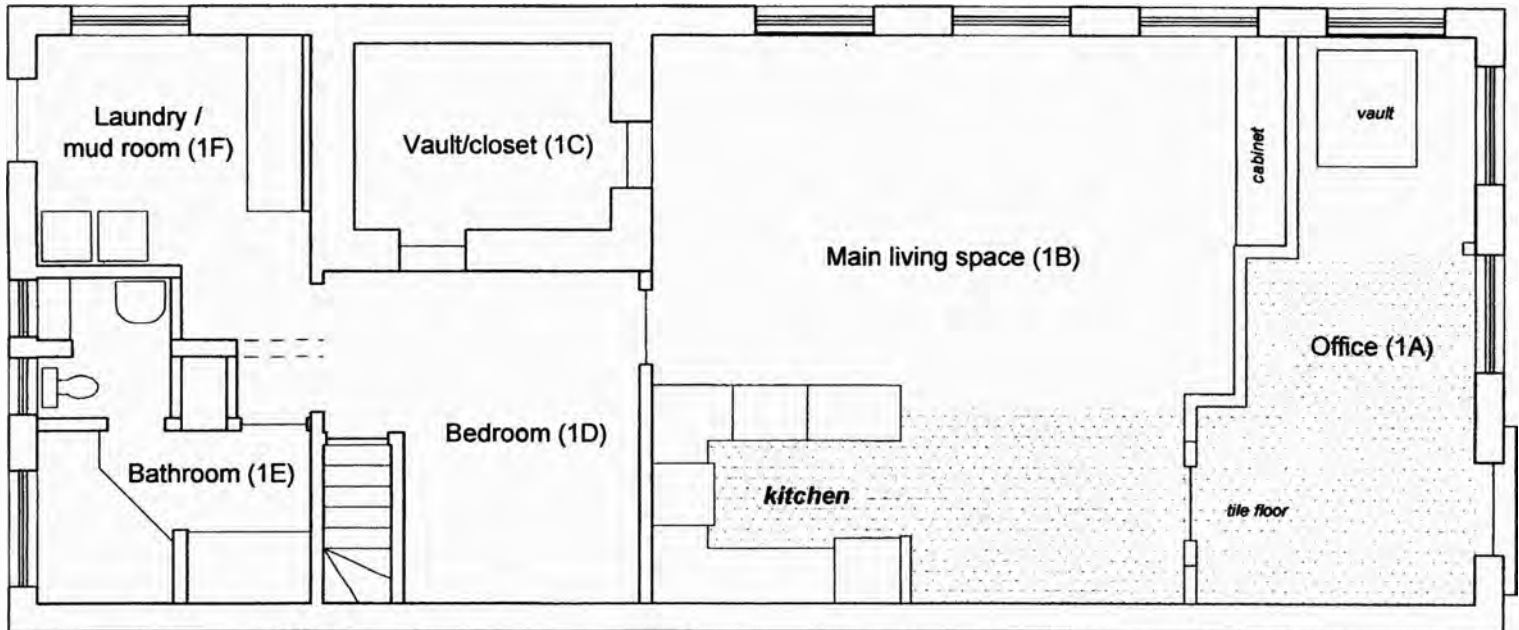
(2008 aerial photograph courtesy of Planning Department, Henry County, Iowa)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Images **Page** 16 **Property name** Farmers Savings Bank  
**County and State** Henry County, Iowa

**Plan – First story (Figure 3)**



**Farmers Savings Bank  
September 2009**

**1/8" = 1' (general layout sketch)  
R.L. McCatley, SPARK Consulting**



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Images **Page** 17 **Property name** Farmers Savings Bank  
**County and State** Henry County, Iowa

**Historic maps and photographs**



**Figure 4. Farmers Savings Bank, prior to 1924 (Anthony Kramer collection, Salem)**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Images Page 18 Property name Farmers Savings Bank  
County and State Henry County, Iowa



**Figure 5. Interior of Farmers Savings Bank, prior to 1924 (Anthony Kramer collection, Salem)**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Images **Page** 19 **Property name** Farmers Savings Bank  
**County and State** Henry County, Iowa

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**Figure 6. Farmers Savings Bank, May 1918 (cropped image).**

(from scrapbook of Mary Helen Curtis, in Lewelling House collections)  
(background in photograph from "A Grand Patriotic Week," *Salem Weekly News*, May 16, 1918)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Images Page 20 Property name Farmers Savings Bank

County and State Henry County, Iowa

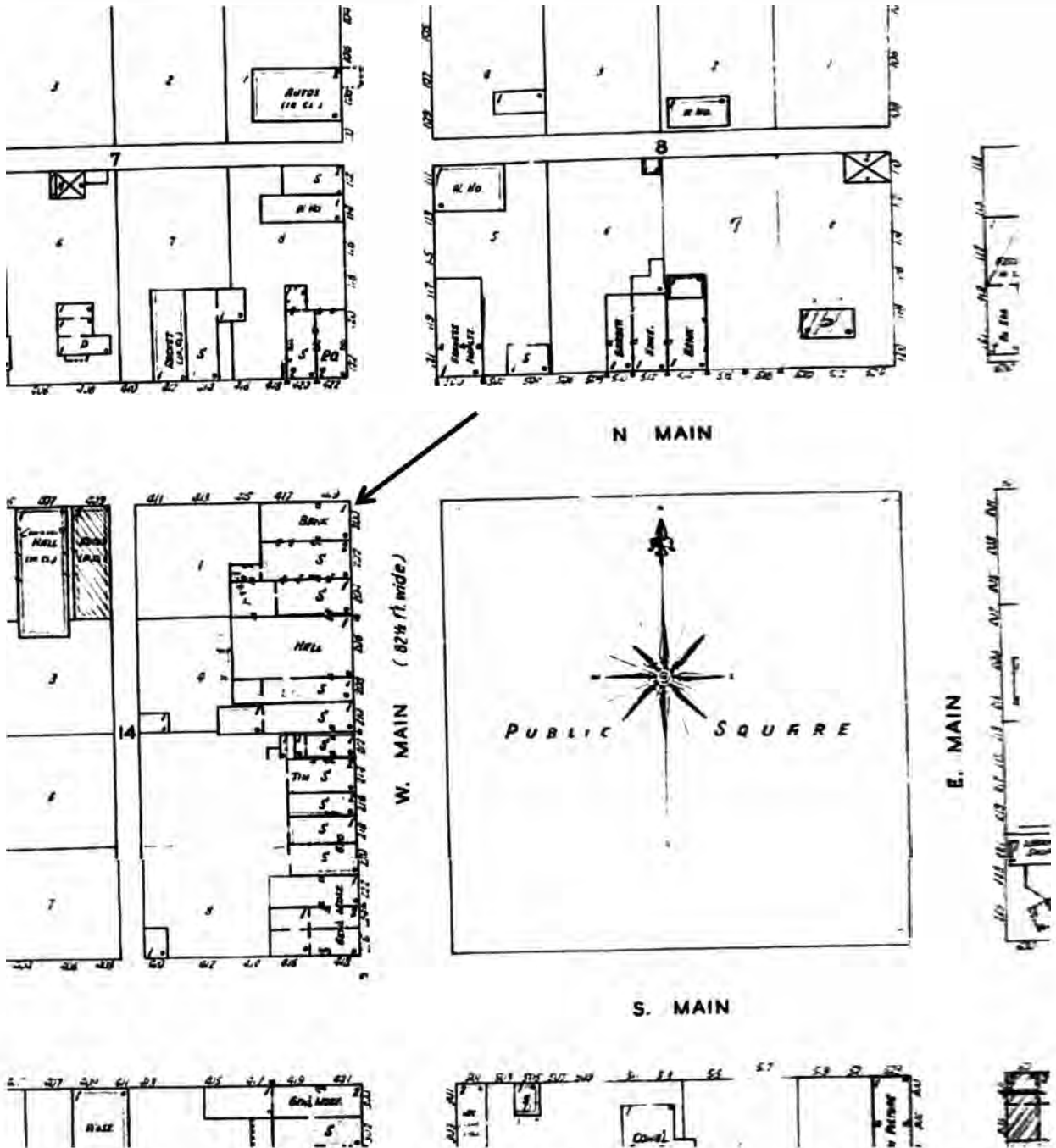


Figure 7. Salem, Iowa in 1931, with location indicated (Iowa Insurance Service Bureau 1931).



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Images Page 21 Property name Farmers Savings Bank  
County and State Henry County, Iowa

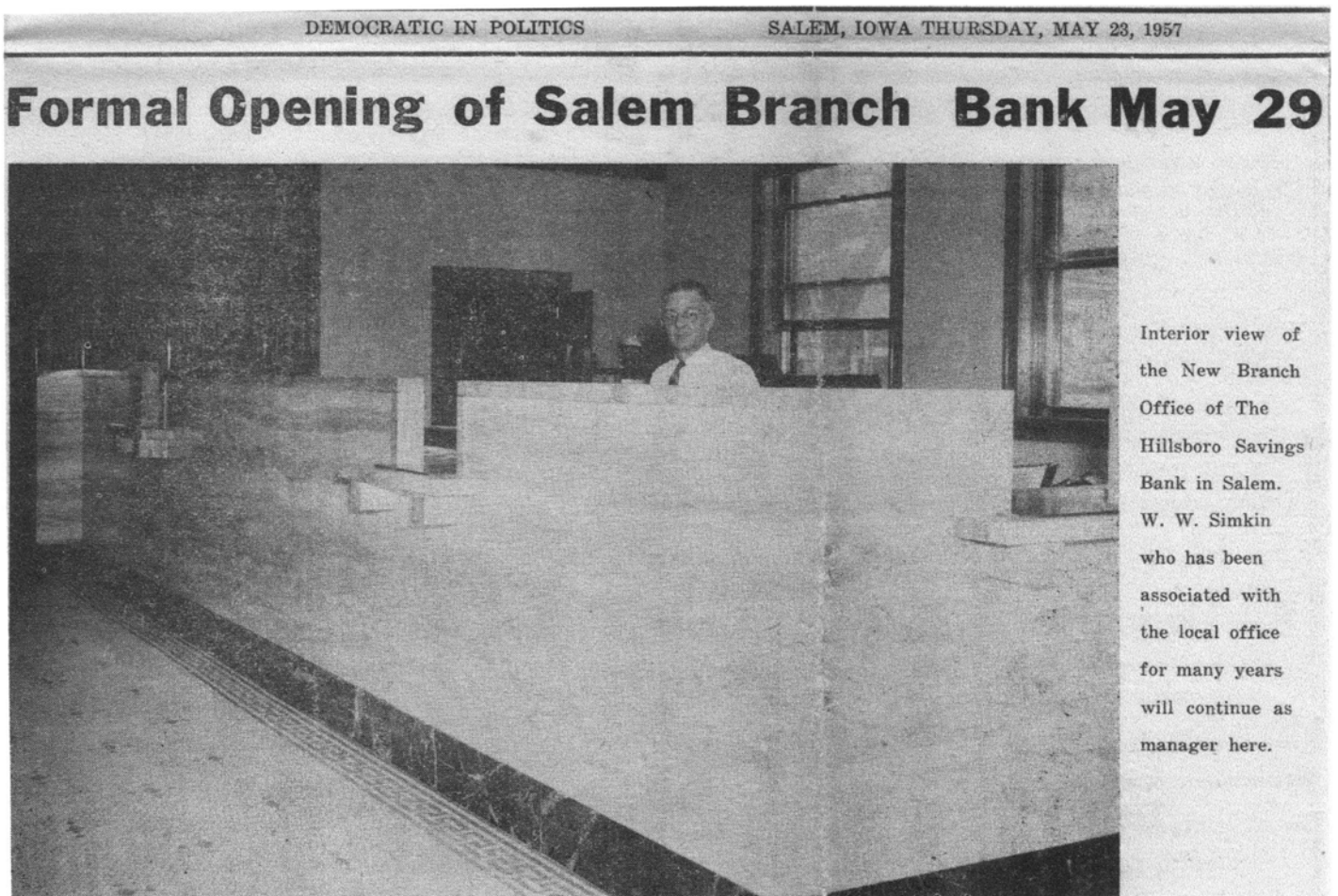


Figure 8. Interior of old Farmers Savings Bank after 1957 remodel, looking northwest.  
(Salem News, May 23, 1957, 1).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Images **Page** 22 **Property name** Farmers Savings Bank  
**County and State** Henry County, Iowa

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Interior View of Salem Branch Office with W. W. Simkin, Manager at Cashier's Counter

**Figure 9. Interior of old Farmers Savings Bank after 1957 remodel, looking east.**

**(Salem News, May 23, 1957, 3).**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Farmers Savings Bank

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Henry

DATE RECEIVED: 4/16/10                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/12/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/27/10                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/31/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000293

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    5.28.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

CLG NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG Name Henry County Date of Public Meeting Jan 14, 2010

Property Name Farmers Savings Bank, 101 S. Main Street, Salem, Henry County

1. For Historic Preservation Commission:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Donald E Young 1-14-10 Date

Print Name Donald E. Young

Title Chairman

Reason(s) for recommendation:

*See application*

2. For Chief Elected Local Official:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature [Signature] Date 1-14-2010

Print Name GARY K SEE

Title CHAIR HENRY COUNTY BOS

Reason(s) for recommendation:

*concur with the recommending body that this proposed is appropriate for nomination.*

3. Professional Evaluation:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature [Signature] Date 1/25/10

Print Name KARL JI CHRISTIAN

Title SHEO Historian

Reason(s) for recommendation:



Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 1



Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 2



Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 3



Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 4





Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 5



Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 6



Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 7



Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 8



Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 9

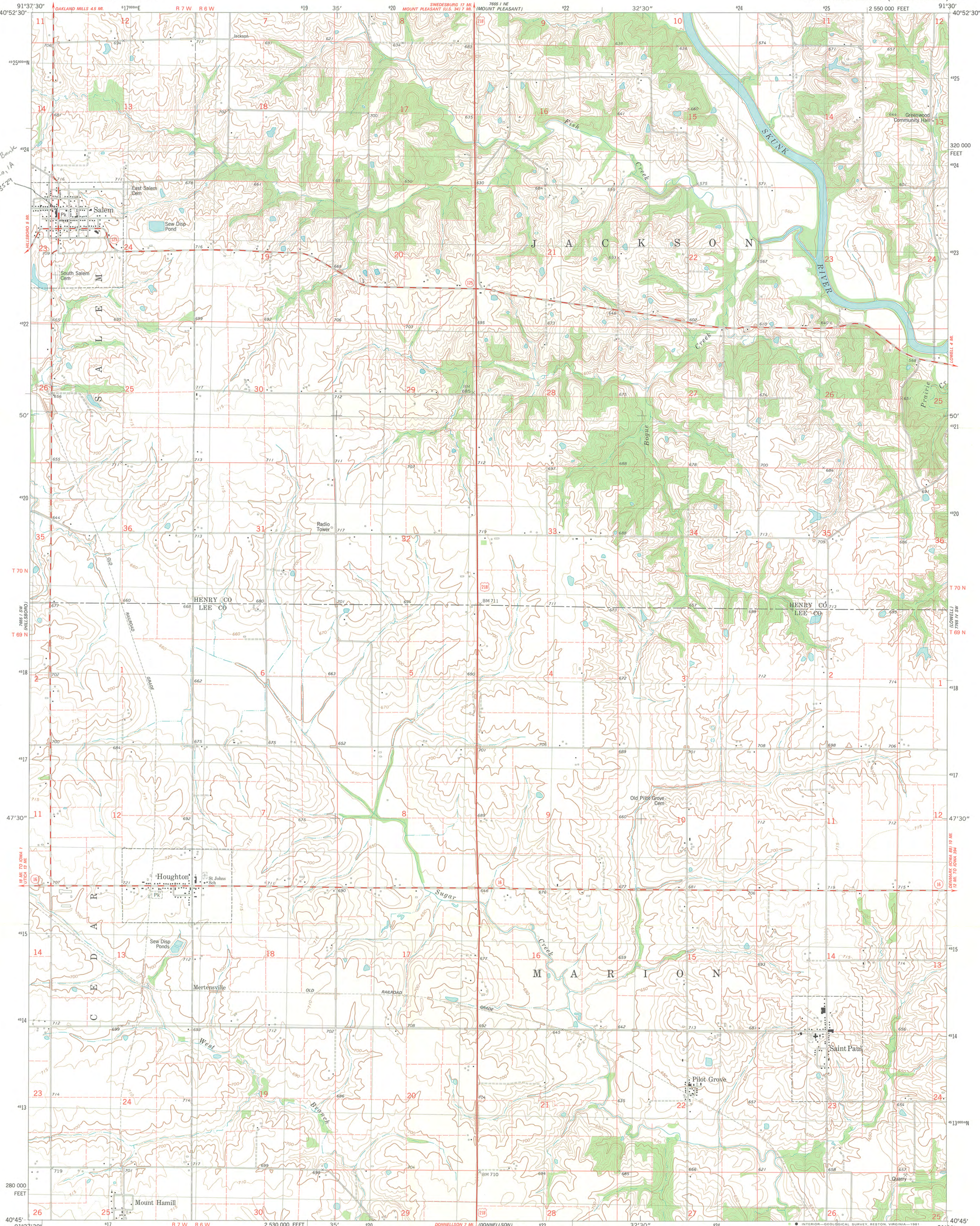


Farmers Savings Bank, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, Photograph 10

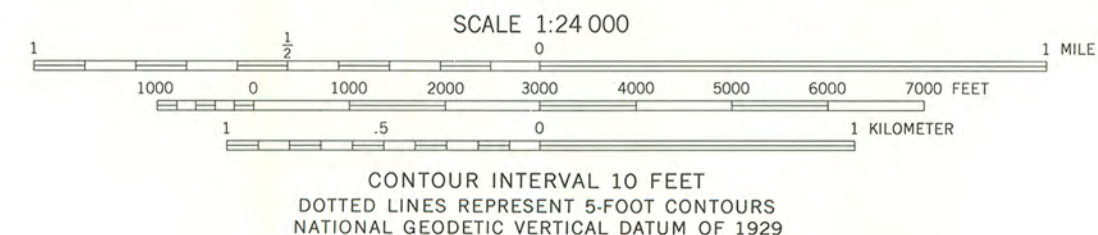
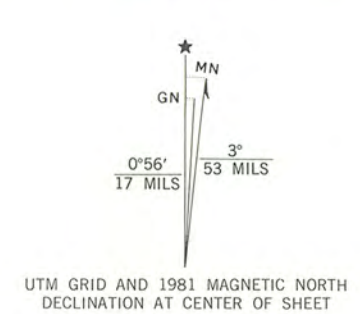
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SALEM QUADRANGLE  
IOWA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Farmer's Survey 35 Bank  
10 S. Main St.  
Salem, Henry Co, IA  
61679 452329



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1976. Map edited 1981  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15 1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 1 meter north and 13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



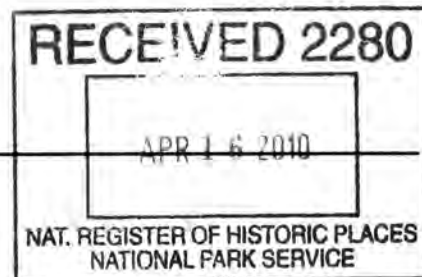
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SALEM, IOWA  
N4045-W5130/7.5



April 7, 2010

Carol Shull, Chief  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

- Farmers Savings Bank, 101 S. Main Street, Salem, Henry County
- Bicksler Block, 101-103 W. Cherry Street, Salem, Henry County
- Cook-Johnson House, 3091 Franklin Avenue, Salem, Henry County
- Lamm-Pollmiller Farmstead District, 1584 – 335<sup>th</sup> Street, Salem, Henry County
- Best, Louis P. and Clara K., Residence and Auto House, 627 Ripley Street, Davenport, Scott County
- Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, 56971 – 170<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames vicinity, Story County

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Foster Hill".

Elizabeth Foster Hill  
Tax Incentive Programs Manager/  
National Register Coordinator