

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: First National Bank COUNTY: LeSueur  
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: New Prague  
 LEGAL DESC.: W 35 ft. of lots 6 and 15 and W 16 inches of ADDRESS:  
 N 54 ft. of E 23 ft. of lot 6 in block 1, city of New Prague 112 E. Main

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>  X  </u>	Excellent <u>      </u>	Local <u>  X  </u>	Primary <u>  Architecture  </u>
Structure <u>      </u>	Good <u>      X  </u>	State <u>      </u>	Secondary <u>  Commerce  </u>
Object <u>      </u>	Fair <u>      </u>	National <u>      </u>	Others <u>      </u>
District <u>      </u>	Deteriorated <u>  </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes   X   No        Restricted   X   PRESENT USE:  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes   X   No        Professional Office Bldg.  
 OCCUPIED: Yes   X   No       

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1922 ORIGINAL USE: Bank  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: First National Bank of New Prague Manufacturers: American Terra Cotta Co.,  
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Architect: Klawiter, St. Paul Chicago.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Dr. W.G. Hines 112 E. Main New Prague, MN 56071	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>  X  </u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: LeSueur County Historical Society, Elysian, MN; 56028	UTM REFERENCE: New Prague Quad.
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	15 / 454205 / 4932150
DATE: August 1980	

**DESCRIPTION:**  
 The First National Bank of New Prague is centrally located in downtown New Prague on the south side of Main Street. The two-story commercial building is the most architecturally distinctive commercial building in either LeSueur or Scott Counties (New Prague's Main Street is divided by the county line).  
 The 1922 building features a facade with Second Renaissance Revival and Moderne detailing executed in glazed terra-cotta. It is set on a base of polished granite. The terra-cotta detail, based on classical motifs, is intricate and delicate, and there are few smooth surfaces. Engaged fluted Doric columns separate the door and windows on the first floor, and fluted pilaster strips extend two stories at the building edges. Panels carrying eagles and floral designs are located beneath the three second story windows, each of which is surrounded by an elaborate architrave. A gentle arch caps these windows. The name, "FIRST NATIONAL BANK", appears on the freize under a projecting cornice with modillion blocks and a broad parapet.  
 The building's exterior integrity is outstanding. Although the door and windows are replacements, they have been incorporated into existing openings and do not detract from the building's integrity. The interior has been remodeled to accommodate the current occupant.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**  
 The First National Bank of New Prague is the area's most architecturally significant commercial building. The pristine condition of the glazed facade make the 1922 bank building an outstanding example of the use of ornamental terra-cotta for commercial building facades. The elaborateness of the design, however, is rarely found in small town main streets in south-central Minnesota. The building was constructed for the First National Bank of New Prague eighteen years after the bank was founded and has been a striking element in New Prague's business streetscape since that time.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota, University of Minnesota Architectural Archives, American Terra Cotta Co. records, Chicago.  
New Prague Times, August 27, 1931.