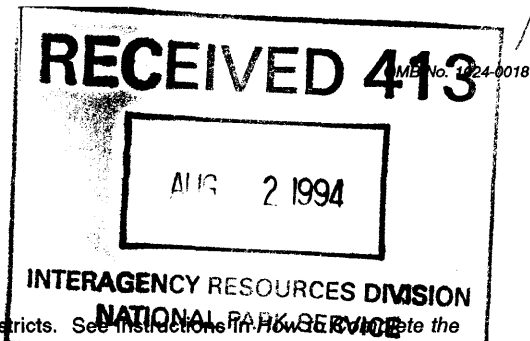


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 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 an 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 (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: WILEY, CLARK & GREENING BANK

Other names/site number: INGOMAR STATE BANK; FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF INGOMAR; OASIS BAR; JERSEY LILLY BAR & CAFE

2. Location

Street & number: MAIN STREET not for publication

City or town: INGOMAR vicinity

State: MONTANA Code: MT County: ROSEBUD Code: 087 Zip code: 59039

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maudie Sheff MT SHPO 7-25-94
Signature and title of certifying official Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register Supr. Lapsley 9/2/94

WILEY, CLARK & GREENING BANK
Name of Property

ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) **Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public - local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public - State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public - Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Western Commercial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

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 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE
- ECONOMICS
- ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1914-44

Significant Dates

1914, 1921, ca. 1933

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: C.J. Weston (Miles City, Montana)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

WILEY, CLARK, & GREENING BANK
Name of Property

ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 3	3 1 8 1 4 0	5 1 6 0 7 4 0	2	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
3	_ _	_ _	_ _	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: Ken Sievert, Mark Hufstetler, Ellen Sievert
Organization: Montana Preservation Alliance Date: January 24, 1994
Street & Number: P.O. Box 1872 Telephone: (406) 585-9551
City or Town: Bozeman State: Montana Zip code: 59771

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 SHPO or FPO.)

Name: William T. and Martha Seward
Street & Number: P.O. Box 322 Telephone: (406) 358-2278
City or Town: Ingomar State: Montana Zip code: 59039

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.).

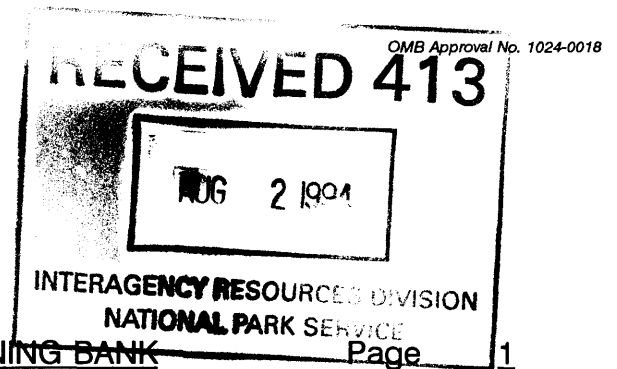
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this 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.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

WILEY, CLARK & GREENING BANK
ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT



Narrative Description:

Imparting an air of permanence, modest in size, but with an unmistakable sense of presence, the Wiley Clark & Greening Bank occupies the prominent northwestern corner of the main commercial intersection of the once thriving prairie town of Ingomar. Adapted for reuse as a bar early in its history and known as the "Jersey Lilly" since 1948, the building is a tall-ceilinged one-story rectangular brick structure with a partial basement. The building was constructed in two phases. The southern portion of the building, measuring 25' x 30' in size, was completed in 1914, and an addition to the north prior to 1920 increased the structure's total size to 50' x 30'.

The building's walls are of brick. The south and east walls are penetrated by unadorned wood-framed monumental scale door and window openings; a long linear string course of brick surrounded by a projecting brick rowlock is located in the brick above the windows and door of the east elevation. The flat roof of the structure is concealed behind a parapet that subtly flares outward at the top with six courses of corbeled brick. In-plane brick soldier courses span above all door and window openings. The brick walls are polychromatic: the primary surface is of cream-colored brick fired at Hebron, North Dakota and the cornice, string course, and a wainscot extending up to window sill height are of darker tan/clay brick. The top of the wainscot is accented by a slightly-projecting rowlock, sloped for a weather face. The south elevation incorporates three symmetrical windows and transoms into the facade. The pattern of openings on the east elevation consists of five individual rectangular windows and an entrance door; the pattern of the fenestration from the south is entry door-wide window-narrow window, then narrow-wide-narrow windows. All windows are of the same monumental height: the narrow east windows attain the same height as the larger openings by including transoms similar to those on the south elevation. The larger windows are not divided; technologically, they display a large size and a high quality of glazing for the 1914 era. The austere, transomed entrance door is located near the building's southeast corner. The back (west) wall of the structure is red common brick; the north wall abuts the adjacent J.A. Bookman General Store building. The bank building is supported on a concrete sub-structure.

As described, exterior stylistic features are limited and subtle on this permanent prairie commercial structure. The features are minimally reflective of earlier revival architectural elements and the building pre-dates the unadorned Bauhaus, streamlined Moderne, and later International styles. The transposition of architectural methodologies from a gentler climate to the aggressive prairie environment has required adaptation, however; here, it has resulted in the addition of a vernacular board and batten porch being constructed along the bank's south and east elevations in recent years.

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WILEY, CLARK & GREENING BANK
ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT

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The interior permanent finishes are largely original: floors are narrow tongue-and-groove unfinished hardwood, walls are smooth finish plaster, and the ceiling is of patterned pressed tin surrounded by a large radius ornamental tin cornice. Historic vaults and their doors survive in the building, both on the main level and in the basement. The location of the original teller cages can be determined by an outline of their concrete base still visible in the floor. All other furnishings within the building (including the ornate wooden back-bar) have been introduced to serve the myriad current functions of "the Lilly" as watering hole, cafe, community center, and social hall for the shrinking population of Ingomar.

The lots on which the building rests are in the center of Ingomar's tiny commercial district. The historic cultural landscape surrounding the bank building remains in evidence, with an historic brick retail building just to the north and a number of abandoned wood-framed commercial structures nearby. Just behind the bank building rest two small outhouses moved to the lot from elsewhere in Ingomar. Both are surrounded by high board fences. Because of the small size of these structures, their hidden location, and their lack of site-specific historical associations, they are not counted as resources in this National Register listing.

Integrity Statement:

In general, the Wiley, Clark & Greening Bank building retains an excellent level of historic integrity, both interior and exterior. The building's historic form and massing survive, as does all the historic brickwork. The complete survival of the historic commercial exterior elements are a modern sign and a covered wooden porch along the building's east and south elevations. The porch, added to shelter the windows and entry from sun and snow, does detract from the building's integrity, but is important in retaining the current functionality of the building. In addition, these elements are fully removable and do not substantially obscure the primary building facades.

The interior of the bank has been adapted to the uses of bar, cafe, and community gathering place. The tin ceiling, plaster walls, vaults, and basic configuration of space are original; the furnishings including the backbar, counter, and display cases have been introduced. The original safe-deposit box reception area has been altered to accommodate the kitchen and food preparation area for the cafe and a doorway has been constructed through the party wall into the adjacent "Bookman Store" for the convenience of patrons. In summary, the basic design elements and materials of the interior of the bank are evident, and if preserved, represent a relatively high level of integrity.

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Wiley, Clark & Greening Bank is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A. The building is historically significant as the permanent home of Ingomar's only banking institution, and as a reminder of commercial activity in the town of Ingomar and in northwestern Rosebud County. In Ingomar and elsewhere, the arrival of a bank or other financial establishment marked an important milestone in the development of a fledgling frontier community. As an institution, Ingomar's bank reflected the town's hoped-for permanence and prosperity, and suggested the potential of incipient wealth for the town and its boosters. In many small eastern Montana towns--including Ingomar--the bank fulfilled this promise, but only briefly. The financial activity sponsored by Ingomar's bank helped the little town grow throughout the 1910s and into the 1920s, but the bank quickly failed when the region's economic fortunes turned. The then-empty bank building ultimately served to symbolize the futile, failed dreams of those who had once invested and banked there.

Ingomar's bank building later assumed a second role, however. In the 1930s the building was converted into a cafe and bar, trading its financial purpose for a new function as a gathering place and a regional social center. In the isolated, shrinking Ingomar community the presence of such a business was especially important, since other civic and commercial outlets did not exist for the area's ranchers and farmers. First as the Oasis Bar, and later as the Jersey Lilly Bar & Cafe, the old bank building has served as a center of Ingomar's social life for over sixty years, and as the town's only retail business for more than thirty. In recent years the "Jersey Lilly" has been recognized as one of the landmark institutions of eastern Montana, an historic tavern with a devoted clientele extending far beyond Rosebud County itself. In short, the building continues to play a vital role in Ingomar's daily life, and is a key element in the community's survival.

The Wiley, Clark & Greening Bank building is also a good example of early twentieth-century commercial architecture in small-town eastern Montana. The building's brick construction and substantial design are typical of small banks of the day, and reflect the solid, dignified image those institutions hoped to project. In the 1910s, dozens of small Montana towns boasted such a facility, and most displayed architectural lines and visual detail similar to that of the Ingomar building. The bank building anchors Ingomar's small commercial streetscape, and is a key architectural element in the town's commercial district.

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Historical Narrative:

The first substantial Euro-American settlement in the Ingomar region took place in the years following the construction of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway (the "Milwaukee Road") through eastern Montana in 1907 and 1908. The completion of the Milwaukee Road made vast tracts of formerly-isolated Montana land accessible to homesteaders, and thus helped encourage Montana's statewide "homestead boom" of the 1900s and 1910s. In Rosebud County and elsewhere, the Milwaukee encouraged new settlement during the 1910s with an advertising campaign aimed at new homesteaders, and by platting and marketing townsites along its line. Ingomar was one such railroad town, platted in 1912 and already the site of a small but permanent community by that year. The town served as a center of commercial and civic activity for hundreds of farmers and ranchers who homesteaded the arid, treeless plains of northwestern Rosebud County.¹

Ingomar grew fairly quickly during the early 1910s, and by 1914 the town boasted a number of permanent, wood-framed houses and a small but complete commercial district. An important indication of Ingomar's growth that year was the establishment of the town's first bank. On July 2, 1914 the *Ingomar Index* announced that a trio of eastern Montana entrepreneurs planned to rapidly open a bank in the town. The group included H.B. Wiley and C.W. Greening, who served as cashiers of banks in Miles City and Melstone, respectively. The third member, E.B. Clark, was president of a large Miles City lumber company. The investors hired W.T. Craig, a bookkeeper at Wiley's Miles City bank, to serve as cashier of the Ingomar bank. The *Index* enthusiastically noted that all the men were long-time Montana businessmen with sterling reputations.²

The Wiley, Clark and Greening Bank opened in rented quarters on Ingomar's Main Street that August,³ and meanwhile construction of a permanent home for the bank was underway. The new structure, on the corner of Main and First in Ingomar, would be the first brick building constructed in the young town. The planned edifice was described by the *Index* as follows:

The new bank's officials let the contract . . . for a new bank building, built of face brick throughout, 24x36 feet in size. Contractor J.C. Weston of Miles City has taken the contract. . . . The building will be constructed of Hebron, North Dakota pressed brick and face brick of the best quality used both on the interior and exterior. The bank counters will be built of brick surmounted with steel grill work, the building will be lathed and plastered and a basement suitable for a heating plant built.⁴

Weston was a prominent contractor who operated the Northwestern Building Company in Miles City. During the 1910s, he supervised the construction of a number of large commercial blocks in the towns of Miles City and Forsyth, Montana.⁵

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Construction of the new bank continued throughout that August and September. The *Index's* editor followed the progress with satisfaction, noting that it "is one of the finest little bank buildings in the territory."⁶ The bank building was finished and occupied in early October, 1914; the *Index* noted that "cashier W.T. Craig feels like a kid with a new toy. This new bank is sure a 'pippin.'"⁷

By all accounts, the first years of the Wiley, Clark & Greening Bank were successful ones. The bank's total deposits grew to \$91,312.82 during its first year of business, and reached an impressive \$185,548.47 by the end of the second year. In late 1917 the bank announced that it would reorganize, changing from a probate bank to a state bank, and that its building would "be greatly enlarged and improved."⁸ With its new charter, the institution received the name Ingomar State Bank. The state charter was traded for a federal one in January 1921, and the business adopted a third name: First National Bank of Ingomar.⁹

By 1921, however, Ingomar's boom period was clearly over. After World War I, the area's unsuitability for intensive agriculture became fully apparent and the region entered a long era of gradual, constant decline. Many of the area's homesteaders had already left by the early 1920s. The First National Bank of Ingomar became an early and dramatic victim of the region's economic reversal; on July 21, 1921 the bank suddenly closed its doors, never to reopen. The bank's receivership proved to be a long and painful process for the town. In the years immediately following the bank's closure a federally-appointed receiver busily attempted to collect on the bank's outstanding loans, garnishing the wages and possessions of Ingomar residents who had borrowed money from the bank. The bank's depositors simultaneously filed claims for reimbursement, although there was little hope that any of the deposits would be recovered. Wiley, the driving force behind the bank's establishment, retired to California, and Craig left Ingomar for a new home in Minnesota. In 1924, Craig was convicted by a federal court of misuse of the bank's funds, although his conviction was later overturned on appeal.¹⁰

The demise of the First National Bank of Ingomar followed a scenario that was replayed dozens of times across eastern Montana during the early 1920s. Most of the region's banks closed during those years, falling victim to endless delinquent loans held by failed homesteaders. The result was a period of dramatic financial crisis, for the state as a whole and for the many towns who were suddenly without a local bank.¹¹

The bank building apparently stood empty for a number of years following the collapse of the First National Bank. In about 1933, however, the interior of the building was minimally remodeled to house a new business: the Oasis Bar, initially owned and operated by Clyde Easterday. The bar subsequently moved to another Ingomar storefront, and by the 1950s J.C. Dinsmoore operated the business as the "Oasis Bar & Grocery." The "Jersey Lilly Bar and Cafe" was first opened in the late 1940s in other quarters in Ingomar, and moved into the Wiley, Clark &

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Greening Bank building during the 1950s. The facility was owned and operated by long-time Ingomar residents Bob and Edna Seward, who named the bar after Judge Roy Bean's famous saloon in Langtry, Texas. In 1958, the Jersey Lilly--by then the only retail business in Ingomar--was purchased by Bob Seward's son, Bill, an Ingomar native and one-time professional boxer. Bill Seward continues to own and operate the Jersey Lilly in 1994, in the little-changed former bank building. The business's atmosphere and its owner's congeniality have combined to make "The Lilly" an eastern Montana landmark; simultaneously, the bar continues to fill its role as the center of Ingomar's community and social life.¹²

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ENDNOTES

1. For a capsule history of Ingomar and its neighboring communities, see Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way"* ([Ingomar, Montana: the committee, 1976]), iv-vii.
2. *Ingomar Index*, July 2, 1914.
3. *Ingomar Index*, August 13, 1914.
4. *Ingomar Index*, July 2, 1914.
5. Mark Hufstetler, *Forsyth: An Architectural History* (Forsyth, Montana: Forsyth Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, 1989), 51.
6. *Ingomar Index*, September 24, 1914.
7. *Ingomar Index*, October 8, 1914.
8. Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way,"* 126. The quotation is reproduced from a newspaper article dated December 6, 1917.
9. Ibid.; "Ingomar, Montana," brochure prepared by the Sage Hen Extension Homemakers Club of Ingomar, [c.1993].
10. Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way,"* 126-127.
11. For a fuller discussion of the statewide causes and implications of Montana's 1920s bank failures, see Joseph Kinsey Howard, *Montana: High, Wide and Handsome* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959), 210-224.
12. "Ingomar, Montana;" "Industrial History of Rosebud County," special issue of *The Forsyth Independent*, February 15, 1956; interviews with Bill Seward and Janet Mysse, Ingomar, Montana, August 14, 1993; interview with Sivert Mysse, Ingomar, Montana, January 24, 1994.

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Howard, Joseph Kinsey. *Montana: High, Wide and Handsome*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959.

Hufstetler, Mark. *Forsyth: An Architectural History*. Forsyth, Montana: Forsyth Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, 1989.

"Industrial History of Rosebud County," special issue of *The Forsyth Independent*, February 15, 1956.

Interview with Sivert Mysse, Ingomar, Montana, January 24, 1994.

Interviews with Bill Seward and Janet Mysse, Ingomar, Montana, August 14, 1993.

The Ingomar Index [newspaper], July 2, 1914; August 13, 1914; September 24, 1914; October 8, 1914.

"Ingomar, Montana," brochure prepared by the Sage Hens Extension Homemakers Club of Ingomar [c.1993].

Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way."* [Ingomar, Montana: the committee, 1976].

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property consists of Lots 6 and 7, Block 2, Original Town of Ingomar, Montana; located in the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 31, T 10N, R35E.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the town lots occupied by the Wiley, Clark & Greening Bank building and historically associated with it.