

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB - 7 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Flanders' Block

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 30 West Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Madelia N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Watonwan code 165

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Farmers Bank of Madelia/Madelia Lodge #116

street & number Box 188/Independent Order of Odd Fellows

city, town Madelia, 56062/Madelia, 56062 N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Watonwan County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town St. James state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Flanders' Block is located in downtown Madelia on Main Street in Flanders' Addition in the Village of Madelia. The structure is a two-story cream colored brick commercial building. The front facade is capped by a simple patterned brick cornice. The primary decorative features of the building are the eight arched windows on the second level. These windows feature double-hung sash and are inset in a secondary arch. A 1915 view of the building shows that the street level featured five archways in the easternmost five bays and a more conventional storefront in the westernmost three bays. These street facades have been covered by later remodelings. The interior of the second level retains many original features.

Recent investigations have revealed that the original arches are intact beneath the eastern street level store fronts. The current owner intends to remove the recent sheathing and restore this area of the building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1872

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Flanders' Block is significant for its association with the early development of county government in Watonwan County. The county was created in 1860, and the county seat was established at Madelia, a town platted in 1857 along the Watonwan River. The first courthouse, a frame structure, was destroyed by fire. In 1872 Joseph Flanders, the county's first Register of Deeds, constructed a two-story brick building on Madelia's Main Street and leased the upper floor for court room space, a portion of the main floor for county offices, and a portion of the basement for the county jail. (The other portion of the main floor was occupied by the Watonwan County Bank.) The county headquarters remained in the building until 1878, when a long-standing county seat struggle resulted in the transfer of county government to St. James, a city which had been platted on the St. Paul and Sioux City Railway in 1870. (The first courthouse in St. James, a frame building, was replaced by the present built in 1895). The upper floor of Flanders' Block has been subsequently utilized by the Odd Fellows Lodge and the lower floors have housed a variety of commercial establishments.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Madelia Quad, MN

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5	3	8	6	4	4	0	4	8	7	8	2	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

East 15' of lot 6 and the west 45' of lot 5, Block 3, Flanders' Addition to the Village of Madelia.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Gimmetad, Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Minnesota Historical Society date 30 August 1983

street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/1/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 3/8/84

for Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Flander's Block, Madelia, Watonwan County, MN

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Bibliography:

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- Hegstrom, Mac. Watonwan County Brochure. St. James: Watonwan County Historical Society, 1970.
- Madelia in Retrospect. Address by Judge Julius E. Haycraft at Madelia's Third Decennial Homecoming, 21 July 1934.
- Madelia-Times Messenger, 4 June 1948.
- Watonwan County Plaindealer - Centennial Edition. St. James, Minnesota, 25 June 1970.