

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received NOV 14 1984
date entered DEC 13 1984

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

1. Name

historic People's State Bank (JF02-3)

and/or common NA

2. Location

street & number NA NE 103 NA not for publication

city, town Diller NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Jefferson code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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"/> NA 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Diller Historical Society, Todd Brauch, President

street & number NA

city, town Diller NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Northwest corner 4th & "E" Streets

city, town Fairbury state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>NA</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The People's State Bank is located in Diller (1983 population 311), Jefferson County, Nebraska. The two-story brick building was constructed in 1892-93 and incorporates Renaissance Revival details in its architectural design. The bank is currently owned by the Diller Historical Society which has plans to utilize the building for a local museum. Historical integrity has been preserved. Structurally, the building suffers from leakage problems in the roof, and falling brickwork in a rear corner of the bank. Plans to stabilize the building have been made by the owner.

The People's State Bank is located in Diller, Nebraska, a small town in southeastern Jefferson County. Constructed in 1892-93 as the People's State Bank, it later became known as the First National Bank in 1904 and finally the Citizen's State Bank in 1914. The building is situated on the northwest corner of the main intersection in town and stands as a landmark in the small village due to its size and architectural design. The Anna C. Diller Opera House, located one block south of the bank, is the town's other major building in the business district and is pending as a National Register nomination. The two-story brick building represents a vernacular interpretation of the Renaissance Revival style of architecture. The rectangular-shaped structure measures 25' x 70' and has a rusticated stone foundation and a flat roof. A parapet wall on the south and east facades supports the prominent pressed metal cornice which displays engaged spires interspaced with recessed panels. Small rows of brick corbelling are found directly below the metal cornice. The raised corner entry, on the southeast, is faced with smooth ashlar and is crowned with a wall cornice. The door unit shows a transom window above and is flanked by two decorative engaged columns with crocketed capitals visually supporting the entablature which is inscribed with "People's State Bank." A stone water table and stone stringcourses further articulate the wall surface. The stringcourses divide the building into distinct horizontal divisions giving the appearance of the piano nobile (first floor) and attic story (top floor) found in the design layout of Renaissance palaces (Nuttgens, 1980, p. 113). Fenestration consists of rectangular shaped window openings with one-over-one pane arrangement, with the second story windows trabeated and linked with the stringcourse. The first story window openings have linteled hoods, and all have stone lugsills. The major window, located on the east facade, consists of a large round-arched opening surrounded by smooth stone voussoirs. Additional entries are found on the south and west facades. The two major facades of the building face east and south with the north and west facades devoid of ornamentation.

The bank building underwent extensive remodelling in 1910 under the supervision of L. M. Cavett, with Elmo Hadley performing the brick and cement work. Alterations included:

"cutting a large hole through the floor for the new vault which is to be larger than the old one and two stories high, one on first floor and one below it. A basement will be excavated under the building sufficiently large to admit of the installation of a heating plant, and an area will also be excavated underneath the sidewalk on the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

026 3 1984

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

south side of the building the width of the walk, and about 21 feet long, for fuel rooms and passage way, which will be covered with iron doors. The old banking counter is to be replaced with a new and up-to-date one...and the cashier's room will be located in the front part of the building instead in the rear as formerly, and a new tile floor will be put in." ("New Bank Fixtures.", The Diller Record, July 29, 1910, p. 5, c. 1).

The Interior of the bank still retains many of the 1910 furnishings, including the banking counter, cashiers room, security vault, tile floor and wood and marbelized trim (see photo #7, 8). The vault opening displays pedastals with fluted colonettes and stylized capitals; a dentilled cornice; and a broken pediment with ornamental urn. Additional office space is situated to the rear (west) of the main banking room and originally provided facilities for telephone operators and later an insurance company. The second level was used as a meeting hall for the masonic lodge.

The Diller Historical Society has recently acquired the bank building and has plans to utilize the structure for a local museum. Priority work includes stabilization of the building (roof and foundation) with rehabilitation of the interior as monies become available.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1892-93 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecturally significant, the People's State Bank is a fine example of vernacular commercial architecture, incorporating Renaissance Revival details in its design. On a local level, the bank has played an important role in the commercial interests of Diller, serving as a financial institution and lending agency for the people in the community. On a state level, the bank stands as an intact example of one of Nebraska's late 19th century banking houses, retaining its original exterior appearance. In many towns, these banks occupied prominent "corners" and served as symbols of progress and solidarity in a growing community. Their building design, scale and material needed to reflect these qualities and thus, these buildings were many times a key component in the architectural environs of downtown business districts.

The People's State Bank represents a good example of commercial architecture, more specifically, that of late 19th century banking institutions in Nebraska.

The building is similar in plan and overall shape to other known examples of this type recorded thus far in the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. These bank buildings are of brick construction with stone trim, two stories in height and have flat roofs with parapet walls, corner entries and prominent cornices. In addition, these properties will generally occupy a corner lot, in which the building will have two major street facades and two secondary facades. Banks of this design are found in numerous towns including Tobias, Western, Blue Springs, Loup City, Orleans, Madison, Cook, and Utica, Nebraska. The People's State Bank is also somewhat modest in its ornamentation as compared to some other late 19th century banking institutions. Stylistically, the building represents a vernacular product of commercial architecture; in this instance, the building does not fit into a specific design category, but may well be a product of the architect's or builder's own design intentions, integrated with the popular building style of that period. With the use of the prominent cornice, stringcourse linking the windows, engaged columns, raised entry and rusticated foundation, the building exists as a simplified version of the Renaissance Revival style which was popular in the United States during the 1840's-1890's. As a result, the building is quite handsome in its design and is a notable structure for a community the size of Diller.

Significant in the area of commerce, the People's State Bank, established 1884, played an important role in the banking interests of Diller serving the people for many years. On August 8, 1904, the bank became known as the First National Bank and then in July, 1914, it was converted back to a state bank, known as the Citizens State Bank. Mr. A. H. Colman (see Colman House, entered National Register of Historic Places, June 25, 1982) served as president of the bank, with Thomas P. Price, acting as cashier.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Diller, Nebr.-Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is located on lots 11, 12, block 6, Original Town, Diller, Jefferson County, Nebraska including all historically associated real estate.

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

state	NA	code	county	code
-------	----	------	--------	------

state	NA	code	county	code
-------	----	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Preservation Associate

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date October 1984

street & number 1500 "R" Street, P.O. Box 82554 telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

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 Marian D. Knott 10/30/84

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 12/13/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

DEC 13 1984

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

"Citizens State Bank Building," The Diller Record, Special Edition,
"Diller, The Village Beautiful", Sept. 17, 1915. Diller, Nebraska.

"Diller Bank Changes", The Diller Record, July 31, 1914, Diller, Nebraska.

"New Bank Fixtures", The Diller Record, July 29, 1910, Diller, Nebraska.

Nuttgens, Pattuck, The Pocket Guide to Architecture, Simon and Schuster,
New York, copyright 1980.

Panek, R. T. American Architectural Styles 1600-1940, Architectural Styles,
Dover, Ma, copyright 1976.

The Jefferson County Record, various articles dating from June 25, 1892 to
April 28, 1893. Diller, Nebraska.