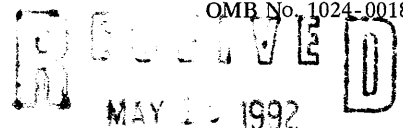


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Farmers State Bank
other names/site number NEHBS: GA01-003

2. Location

street & number 601 Main [NA] not for publication
city, town Adams [NA] vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county Gage code 067 zip code 68301

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [x] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal
Category of Property: [x] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total 1
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Bob Puschenbergy DSHPO
Date: 5/6/92
Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[x] 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):

Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper: Melissa Byer
Date of Action: 6/11/92

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Trade/bank

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

HEALTH CARE: Dentist Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Renaissance

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK: block

walls BRICK: block

roof ASPHALT: tar

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Farmers State Bank building is located in Adams, Gage County, Nebraska, population 470. Gage County is situated in the southeastern part of the state. Constructed with brick and block, it is a one-story building that was erected in 1908 on a lot vacated by the A. C. Bryson Store. It represents the characteristic type of building and location that distinguished banking during the era of its construction. It has a sheet metal cornice on the south and east facades. The main entry is asymmetrical on the south facade with large window openings on the south and east sides of the building. Occupying a prominent corner lot, the building is formalistic in its design with some detailing of the entablature which runs along the south and east sides of the building.

Rectangular in plan, the high one-story structure features tan and red brick work configured in a three-part decorative pattern. The base below the windows is solid red brick. A single-course "quoin" effect is created at the corners and flanking the fenestration in the mid section of the composition, while the "attic" section of the wall below the cornice is configured with elongated tan brick lozenges set into a red brick background. The cornice is pressed metal with classical swags set in panels demarked by brackets. Atop the cornice on the entrance side is an integral pressed-metal sign denoting "BANK".

The south entrance facade is two bays in composition with a transomed door balanced by a large window. The window features a large central lite with side-lites (Chicago window fashion) and a transom lite above. The three-bay composition of the other principle elevator features three identically sized windows; single-lite with transoms.

Currently the interior of the building is undergoing a major rehabilitation as a certified restoration. New electrical wiring and plumbing are being installed. The original metal ceiling is completely intact and in some cases highlighted in the building. New rug, ceiling panels, and lighting fixtures are being installed throughout. The restroom is being updated for the handicapped. The original vault is functional today just as it was in 1908. Scott E. Osborne, DDS, will begin his family dentistry practice in this building in March, 1992.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1908-1936

Significant Dates
1908

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Significant Person
NA

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Farmers State Bank in Adams, Nebraska, is architecturally significant as a good example of a small town bank, a characteristic type in Nebraska. Usually located on a prominent corner in the business district, small town banks exhibited two principle facades that displayed fine materials and dignified styling; both qualities are exhibited in the Farmers State Bank building. The period of significance, 1908-1936, reflects the building's date of construction through 1936 when it ceased operation as a bank and was used as the Adams post office.

Architecturally the Farmers is one of the two substantial masonry banks built in Adams during this period, both being the only remaining substantial structures constructed prior to the 1940s. The other bank is a fine Neo-Classical Revival building whose integrity has been greatly compromised with contemporary bronze window replacements. While the Farmers Bank currently exhibits windows with plywood panel covering, the originals are intact beneath the plywood, and the panels accurately reflect the historic configuration. The Farmers Bank is, then, the best local example of early twentieth century commercial architecture in Adams.

In 1908, Adams residents G. W. Meeker and W. E. Bryson were, according to the Adams Globe, two capitalists interested in starting another bank in Adams. According to published reports in the May 14, 1908, Globe, the bank would be located on a corner occupied by the A. C. Bryson store. The frame store would be moved and a substantial building of double brick and block would be constructed. In June, 1908, a banking charter was granted for the "Farmers Bank." Those on the board of directors were W. E. Bryson, M. L. Davis, D. F. Bryson, N. D. Thomas, James Platt, G. W. Meeker, and J. A. Miller. The bank began with \$25,000 capital.

In the early 1900s Adams experienced growth. As was the case with many Nebraska towns, banking institutions served as symbols of progress and stability. Their building design, scale, and material needed to reflect these qualities and thus, bank buildings were many times a key component in the architectural environs of downtown business districts. The 1900s were also an exciting time in banking. Banks started with very little capital, and it was not uncommon for small villages to have several banks. Adams reflected this trend: in addition to the Farmers State Bank, the town also had the First National Bank, and the Adams State Bank.

Following its construction in 1908, the Farmers State Bank used the building until 1924. In 1925, the building was purchased by the Adams State Bank. Principals in the purchase were Henry Gramann, Sr., who had been cashier of the Farmers State Bank and his father-in-law, Chris Hennies. The Adams State Bank used the building until 1936, then relocated one block west to the former First National Bank Building. The Gramann family leased the Farmers State Bank building to the United States Postal Service; it served as the Adams Post Office from 1936 to 1991. Today the third generation of Gramann family--Henry, Jr. and Karl, grandsons of Henry Gramann, Sr., are conducting a certified restoration of the old Farmers State Bank building.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Haller, Ben. A History of Banking in Nebraska. Kimberly Press Ltd., 1990.

History of Gage County, Nebraska. Gage County Historical Society, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Puschendorf, Robert. "The Age of Main Street Banking: The Dual System in Nebraska." Historic Context Report 15.05.03. Lincoln, NE. Nebraska Historic Preservation Office, January, 1989.

Varner, E. "Bank Charter," Adams Weekly Globe, June 1, 1908.

Varner, E. "New Bank in Adams," Adams Weekly Globe, May 14, 1908

Wiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Architectural Styles, MIT Press, MA, Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 1969.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 14 711290 4481560
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as Lot 11 and west half of Lot 12, Block 9, Original Town of Adams, Gage County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that parcel of land which has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karl W. Gramann, Vice President

organization Adams State Bank

street & number 649 Main

city or town Adams

date January 24, 1992

telephone (402) 988-2255

state Nebraska

zip code 68301