

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

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

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

For NPS use only
received FEB 20 1986
date entered MAR 20 1986

1. Name

historic First State Bank of LeRoy

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Main Street and Broadway N/A not for publication

city, town LeRoy N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Mower code 099

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

4. Owner of Property

name First State Bank of LeRoy President: Mr. Douglas Van Dyke

street & number Box 369

city, town LeRoy N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55951

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Mower County Court House

street & number N/A

city, town Austin state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society-Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The first State Bank of LeRoy is a small structure, measuring 25' x 61', facing west on the northeast corner of Main Street (Highway 56) and Broadway.

The design of the bank is very simple. The entire building is faced in cream-colored Roman brick. The front (west) facade is symmetrical with a central large round brick arch, flush to the facade, above the central doorway. The arch terminates on a level with the top of the door header. The door is recessed and the recess and arch form a shallow barrel vault above the entry. Flanking the door are two sets of three small square windows, deeply recessed and encased in steel frames, at a height of about four feet off the ground. Such windows are derivative of a similar use of small windows by Louis Sullivan on the bank in Owatonna. Over the front door is a semi-circular stained glass window with a gold sun set on a blue/green background below which are the letters "P & E" in green stained glass. Use of the semi-circular sun in the stained glass window hints that the brickwork in the arch is meant to suggest the radiating rays of the sun.

The south facade of the bank along Broadway has a large rectangular window placed high on the wall with eight of the smaller square deeply recessed window openings below. This facade is also symmetrical. The large window is arranged with steel frames into panels, each containing nine 4" x 5" small panes of stained glass in random purple and orange mottled colors.

The cornice of the building is executed in simple brick chamfering with blue metal flashing above. There is no parapet as such. The building is very simple. Only soldier courses of brick at the sills, plinth and water table break the smooth brickwork on the exterior walls.

The exterior building is virtually intact. However, the small windows, once stained glass like the large south window, have had plain replacement glass installed ca. 1972. The original stained glass for these windows has been lost. The front entry door was originally made of wood with 15 lights arranged vertically in panes of 3 horizontally and 5 vertically. Today the new door is anodized metal and glass.

The interior has been modified by a variety of applied materials, including a suspended ceiling, sprayed surface and vertical wood panelling wainscot on the walls, and carpeting. Whether any original fabric survives under these materials is unknown. The new lowered ceiling in the entry vestibule and open plan is evidence that the original "Farmer's Room" and "Womens' Room" on the north and south sides of the vestibule have been removed. There is no evidence of the original white oak floors, trim and counters, the marble bases, or the green tile floor in the public spaces.

The building is in excellent condition. No tuckpointing is needed on the exterior brickwork and the large south-facing stained glass window is in good shape.

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

Specific dates 1914 **Builder/Architect** Purcell and Elmslie, Minneapolis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First State Bank of LeRoy is a small gem of a Prairie style bank done in 1914 by the firm of Purcell and Elmslie, students of Louis Sullivan. William Gray Purcell (1880-1965) worked for Sullivan for a short period in Chicago and established his own firm in Minneapolis and Chicago in 1906. George Grant Elmslie (1871-1952) joined the firm in 1909 after leaving Adler and Sullivan in Chicago. Elmslie stayed with Purcell until 1921 and then established his own firm in Chicago. The LeRoy bank was the third designed by Purcell and Elmslie and was their smallest and most inexpensive bank building. Measuring only 25' x 61', the bank design at LeRoy was severely restricted by lack of funds. It was built for \$10,000 or a mere .24¢ a cubic foot. The design suggests what Purcell and Elmslie could do on a severely restricted budget. In 1914, it occasioned much comment for its lack of large windows on the front facade, a design innovation at the time.

Purcell and Elmslie left "parabiographies", short building biographies, of many of their jobs before 1915. The one on the First State Bank of LeRoy is particularly interesting for shedding light on the constraints under which the architects worked. They refer to the project as "a cute little bank," which almost did not get built. One bank director with the deciding vote objected to a new bank building, believing that "architects always ran up the costs of their buildings." When he found himself pressured by those directors favoring a new bank, he shrewdly suggested that if a first class architect could produce the building for not more than \$10,000 he would go along. He tipped off the Cashier, Harry D. Tompkins, who, in turn, told Purcell and Elmslie. As it turned out, the architects' bids came to just over \$10,000, by eliminating a decorative terra cotta arch over the front entrance, designing it in plain brick instead. This change brought their bid to just under \$10,000, much to the chagrin of the parsimonious director, a Scandinavian who felt he had given his word. Purcell and Elmslie thought the incident unfortunate for the overall design: "...due to the extreme economy, the building was at best all too severe in character, and greatly needed the lift which color and pattern in the entrance arch would have given the facade." (Parabiography #231, P & E Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, U of M, St. Paul, Minn.) Nonetheless, the bank, while severe, is a masterpiece of Prairie style design and its charm is partly in its severity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

David Gebhard and Tom Martinson, A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota. (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1977), p. 292.
Purcell and Elmslie Papers, Parabiography #231, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name LeRoy, Minn.-Iowa 1965

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 15 540120 4817370
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 28, Block 7, Original Townsite of LeRoy

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 Dr. Norene A. Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date July 7, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 2/10/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 3/20/86

Jay M. McPherson
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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First State Bank of LeRoy

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Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number

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The First State Bank of LeRoy nomination
contains 1 contributing building.