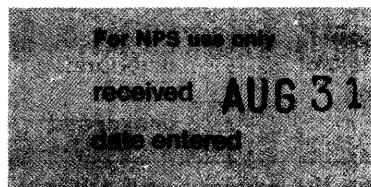


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Marble Rock Bank

and/or common Marble Rock Historical Society Building

2. Location

street & number 313 Bradford Street not for publication

city, town Marble Rock vicinity of congressional district 3

state Iowa code 19 county Floyd County code 067

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Marble Rock Historical Society, Inc.

street & number 313 Bradford Street

city, town Marble Rock vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Floyd County Recorder's Office

street & number Floyd County Courthouse

city, town Charles City state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N.A. federal state county local

depository for survey records N.A.

city, town N.A. state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The last original Building in Marble Rock, this former private bank is a well preserved example of late nineteenth century commercial building. It is reportedly the sole commercial structure to survive two disastrous fires in 1899 that raged through the town. The bank's stone facade is appropriate for a community built upon a large stone outcrop. The structure's association with J.B. Shepardson, one of the most important figures in Marble Rock, provides additional historical value for the structure.

The one-story building occurs on the town's main street between a vacant lot and a one-story wood storefront. In recognition of the community's reliance on the railroad, which arrived there in 1871, the historical society has placed a railroad signal adjacent to the former bank.

The original stone facade remains, and building's other three sides are stucco. Nine simple corbels support a plain cornice and provide decoration. A plain plaque identifies the structure as a bank built in 1885. Very slender piers separate two large storefront windows.

The local historical society now uses the building as a museum. The original stone facade remains, and building's other three sides are stucco. Nine simple corbels support a plain cornice and provide decoration. A plain plaque identifies the structure as a bank built in 1885. Very slender piers separate two large storefront windows.

The local historical society now uses the building as a museum. The original front door is gone and the large transom above it has been painted over. Also removed is the vault door inside. Barn siding and shutters from a local corn crib adorn the interior.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce - banking	<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 1885-present **Builder/Architect** J.B. Shepardson

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

As the sole surviving early structure in commercial Marble Rock, the former bank calls attention to the early development of the community. It is also associated with the career of the brothers, J.B. and S.E. Shepardson, who dominated the financial life of Marble Rock during its formative years.

New Yorker J.B. Shepardson moved to Marble Rock in 1864. He engaged in various occupations, including running a store, a hotel, and land speculating. With his brother he opened the town's first bank, Marble Rock Bank, in 1873, probably building this structure in 1885. In 1882 they were advertising it as "A bank for the live ones." The bank survived two cruel fires in 1899 that consumed much of the community. In 1927 banking operations were moved to another building, and the bank closed permanently in 1932.

The Shepardson brothers had extensive grain interests as well, purchasing the local grain elevator in 1879. J.B. Shepardson owned 3,000 acres of improved land in three counties and a grist mill on the Shell Rock River. Thus, the Shepardson brothers participated in the heady boom period of the city. (Marble Rock received rail connections in 1871 and incorporation as a city in 1881, evidence of growth and prosperity.)

J.B. Shepardson was active in community affairs, serving on the county board of supervisors, as justice of the peace, postmaster, and mayor. In 1911 he donated half of the \$2,000 purchase price for the town's first park.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Greene

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UMT References

A 1 5 | 5 | 1 0 8 3 0 | 4 7 5 6 7 6 0
Zone Easting Northing

B | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

Verbal boundary description and justification The west twenty-two(22) feet of Lot Four(4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section Nine(9), Township Ninety-four(94) North, Range Seventeen(17) west of the 5th P.M., Floyd County, Iowa, and the east twenty(20) feet of Lot Four(4) and the south eighteen(18) feet of the east twenty(20) feet of Lot Three(3), Block Ten(10), Original Plat of Marble Rock, Iowa

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

state N.A. code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Beving Long and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historians

organization Office of Historic Preservation date August 1982

street & number East 12th and Grand Avenue telephone 515/281-5111

city or town Des Moines state Iowa

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 Adrian D. Anderson

title Director, Iowa State Historical Department date August 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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

for [Signature] date 11/10/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number

9.

Page 1.

*Arlene Carneys, Nancy Reams, eds., "Our Heritage. A Collection of Remembrances. Marble Rock, Iowa." 1976, pp.14, 27, 47-48, and 96.
Located at State Historical Library, Des Moines

Marble Rock Journal, 6 March 1919

History of Floyd County, Iowa, 2 vols. (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1882),
2: 1130, 1063, 1071 and 1073.