

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

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

For NPS use only

received JUN 9 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic State Bank of Stratford

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 801 Shakespeare Street not for publication

city, town Stratford vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Hamilton code 079

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 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
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dale E. Bergman

street & number 1024 Washington

city, town Stratford vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Hamilton County Courthouse

city, town Webster City state Iowa 50595

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town 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 former State Bank of Stratford symbolizes the agriculturally based prosperity that was briefly enjoyed by smaller Iowa towns prior to and during the First World War. The building represents both the final installment in a series of elaborate large scale brick storefront development, as well as a unique combination of mixed commercial uses under a single roof.

The State Bank of Stratford, constructed 1917-18, is today the most notable commercial building in that town in terms of scale and exterior ornamentation. It was the largest and the last brick commercial block to be constructed in the town. Rectangular in plan (95' x 50'), this two story reddish brown brick building incorporates a basement storefront, two ground level storefronts and the banking facilities, and second story apartments within a single complex. Georgian features include the pedimented projecting entrance portico which is centered on the east wall, the fine Wren-like elliptical arched windows, the quoining effect executed in brick, and the dentilated cornice.

The main floor fenestration of the east facade is essentially symmetrical, save for the presence on the right-hand side of a commercial storefront in lieu of the expected matching pair of semi-elliptical arched (16/16) Georgian windows which are located to the left of the central pedimented entry. This stone entryway with paired engaged plain columns on either side of the main entrance contains Egyptian decorative elements in the forms of the scalloped acanthus leaves and the stylized tapered leaves which form the column capitals. The entryway reaches the flat projecting stone belt course which separates the two floors, and by so doing, disguises the excessive height of the first floor. The second floor fenestration is symmetrical. Three paired sets of small 1/1 sash windows are separated by two stone panel inserts which feature elongated rosette designs. Wedge shaped stones form keystones within the segmental arches which cap these windows. A mullioned cornice completes this Georgian facade. The corners of the building are quoined in brick and the same pattern is repeated in the stone surrounds.

On the southern facade, two fronts have been created by the use of a quoined pattern which separates the 'bank' from the storefront on the left hand side. Five compass windows with elliptical arches are recessed beneath brick relieving arches. Stone keystones and springers are set into the actual elliptical window arches. Carved stone lintels project from the base of the window. Flanking these windows are single double hung sash windows which match those on the main facade. Similarly, five pairs of second floor windows vertically match the compass windows below. Two window pairs are above the storefront.

The building is executed in red-brown brick, in American bond. An exterior basement stairway provides access to a lower level storefront. The building is primarily Georgian in its design, reflected in its entryway, symmetry, vertical separation of unequal levels by a belt course, window forms, and by the use of a stone water table. The building is well preserved except for minor storefront window alterations.

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 checked="" 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 1917/8-31 **Builder/Architect** Boyd & Moore, Architects.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The State Bank of Stratford played a significant role in that town by virtue of its early and lengthy service which ended with its failure during the depression. It is the best representative example of a surviving grouping of four bank buildings in Stratford, and is of particular importance due to its architectural refinement, composition and scale as well as the fact that in its original conception, this building housed six distinct functions under a single roof. It was designed by the noted architects Byron B. Boyd and Herbert J. Moore.

The State Bank of Stratford was the largest and earliest Stratford bank. The town was originally platted in response to railroad development in the region in 1881. The bank opened as a savings bank early in 1891, eight years after the town had incorporated and within eleven months the bank qualified to become a state bank, by acquiring \$25,000 in capital. This success reflected the prosperity which was then present in the Iowa countryside. The bank weathered the depressions of 1893 and 1907. In 1894 the bank replaced its frame building with the first brick building which was raised in Stratford. This building, presently the post office, was removed to the rear of the lot in 1917 and adjoins the subject building.

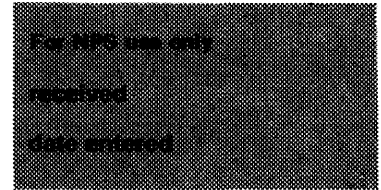
The most noteworthy individuals who served the bank included P. A. Swanson and Edward Peterson. Swedish-born Swanson was the "pioneer merchant of Stratford," served as bank president after 1904, and held numerous local public offices. Peterson was bank cashier after 1897, and served two terms as town mayor.

Bank deposits increased from \$98,000 in 1906 to \$240,000 in 1912. In 1916 the loss of an adjoining drugstore to fire provided the opportunity to construct a new bank building. While the vast majority of Iowa bank buildings were single use structures designed to serve as monuments to finance, the State Bank of Stratford combined six different uses. The basement housed a barber shop complete with showers, and the "Farmers' Room" which was designed for "meetings of any body of men." On the main floor, two storefronts and the banking facility were included. Upstairs, doctors offices and two apartments were provided for. The main facade has always housed a drug store, while the rear storefront has served as a restaurant, grocery, and is currently the public library. Combined with this planned multiple role as a community building, was the sense of permanency which was imparted by the Georgian facade and the Egyptian decorative features.

Between March 1923 and June 1928, two hundred and ninety-eight state banks closed as the post war demand for agricultural goods plummeted, and prices fell. The State Bank of Stratford survived this most difficult era but succumbed to a run on the bank which began on September 19, 1931. The building was purchased in 1936 by the Farmer's Savings Bank which has occupied the brick building on the north side since 1910. This firm occupied the bank until quite recently when it constructed a new facility across the street to the south. The subject property currently houses a carpet shop, a safety deposit box rental firm, a law office, an antique shop, drug store, apartments, and the public

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Continuation sheet Physical Description

Item number 7

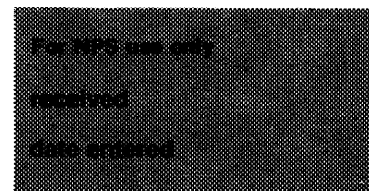
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Significant interior features include high vaulted ceilings, marble baseboards, silvered oak wainscoting, brass light fixtures with patterned globes, and the original safety deposit boxes and vault.

The bank is located at the southern termination of the block-long Stratford commercial area. Facing the main thoroughfare, Shakespeare Street, the railroad yard and depot (Toledo and Northwestern Railroad) originally bordered the bank across the street on the south and terminated the main street. This corner location has attracted every local banking operation over time. The preceding bank building occupied this same site and survives in the rear of this lot (moved when this building was constructed). Other bank buildings adjoin this one.

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Continuation sheet Historical Significance

Item number 8

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library.

The architects of this building, Byron J. Boyd and Herbert J. Moore of Des Moines had both served as apprentices with Iowa's leading architectural firm, Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson of that city. It is possible that they had a specialty in designing bank buildings. In 1917 Boyd boarded with a salesman who represented Greene Specialty Company, dealers in Baum fireproof safes, Leer Account Systems, and American Cash Registers.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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