

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

APR 8 1980

HISTORIC NAME: First National Bank COUNTY: Faribault
 CURRENT NAME: Same CITY/TWP.: Winnebago
 LEGAL DESC.: Original Plat: Lot 24 & Ex. S 15' Aud. Lots 23, 25, and 26. Block 5, Village of Winnebago ADDRESS: Main St. & Cleveland Winnebago, MN 56098

| CLASSIFICATION: | CONDITION: | SIGNIFICANCE: | THEME/S: |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Building <u>X</u> | Excellent <u>X</u> | Local <u>X</u> | Primary <u>Architecture</u> |
| Structure _____ | Good _____ | State _____ | Secondary <u>Commerce</u> |
| Object _____ | Fair _____ | National _____ | Others _____ |
| District _____ | Deteriorated _____ | | |

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X PRESENT USE: Bank
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

| | |
|--|--|
| DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1916-1917 | ORIGINAL USE: Bank |
| ORIGINAL OWNER: First National Bank | ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Franklin Ellerbe |
| OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: First National Bank P.O. Box 270 Winnebago, MN 56098 | ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u> |
| LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Faribault County Historical Society 405 E. 6th Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013 | UTM REFERENCE: Winnebago Quad. 7.5 |
| FORM PREPARED BY: Susan Roth | UTM Reference 15 / 406170 / 4846480 |
| DATE: November 1979 | |

DESCRIPTION:

The First National Bank is located at the southwest corner of Main Street and Cleveland in the heart of Winnebago's business district. It is a two story rectangular structure of Carthage marble constructed in the Classic Revival style. The flat roof is surrounded by a rudimentary cornice and simple gabled parapet on the main facade. All facades are symmetrical and side bays are separated by flat engaged pilasters. The tall windows are highlighted by a bas-relief design and spearated vertically by metal panels with leaf-like projections. The recessed main entry includes a flat portico supported by scrolled brackets flanked by two columns. A stone water table extends around the building. Two minor alterations have been made to the bank -- a drive-in teller service to the west (rear) of the building, and the incorporation of a former security company building to the south side of the structure. The bank was remodeled in 1977-78 with great care taken to preserve the exterior of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The First National Bank at Winnebago is significant as an example of an unusually well articulated and well preserved example of a style of bank building common to the early 20th century streetscapes of small towns in Minnesota. The bank was founded in 1870 as the Winnebago City Bank by Jason C. Easton and J.A. Armstrong. Easton was known at the time for his extensive statewide dealings in banking, commercial real estate, farming and railroads. In 1900 the bank became the First National Bank. Continued growth made it necessary to construct larger banking quarters and in 1913 St. Paul architect Franklin Ellerbe was commissioned to draw up plans. Ellerbe is noted for designing numerous residential and commercial buildings throughout Minnesota, among them several buildings at the Mayo Clinic. The Classic Revival building at Winnebago was constructed in 1916-17 on the same site of the earlier bank building. Classic Revival banks were often the key architectural element on a small town streetscape; the Winnebago banks' corner location, its well preserved condition and the strength of Ellerbe's design make it a notable example of the type and a locally significant building.