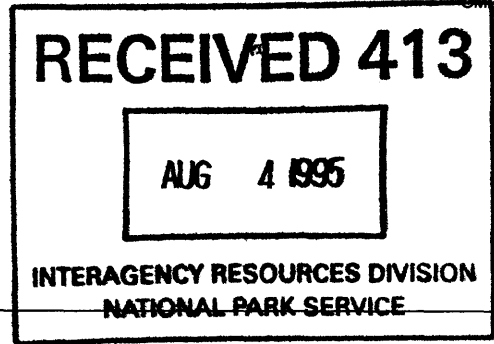


10602

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Farmers and Merchants State Bank

other name/site number: Brown's Pottery

2. Location

street & number: 223 Dewey Avenue

not for publication: n/a  
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Eureka

state: Montana code: MT county: Lincoln code: 053 zip code: 59917

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Mark F. [Signature], Interim SHPO 7/31/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 Entered in the National Register \_\_\_ see continuation sheet  
 determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ see continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ see continuation sheet  
 removed from the National Register \_\_\_ see continuation sheet  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
Edson H. Beall (Signature of the Keeper) 8/31/95 Date of Action  
Entered in the National Register

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	_____ building(s)
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>  1  </u>	_____ TOTAL

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions:

Commerce/Trade: Financial Institution

Current Functions:

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:

Other: Western Commercial

Materials:

foundation: stone  
walls: brick  
roof: asphalt  
other: n/a

**Narrative Description**

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank is a two-story brick structure with step-parapet roof. A rectangular mass, the building is constructed of common bond red brick in Western Commercial style. Located along the main thoroughfare in Eureka, the building presents a stately facade to the street and is an important anchor in the town's historic commercial district.

Located on a corner, the east and north facades are important to the overall streetscape. Major design elements common across these two facades include large, round-arched brick openings across the first floor, and individual rectangular window openings on the upper story. Window openings on the primary facade are broad, lending a wide-eyed look to the front. Decorative brickwork ties the entire design together. This includes continuous coursed brickwork around the first floor openings, a course of brick dentils which visually separates upper and lower stories, brick pilasters enframing the upper and side facades, and inset panels which trim the cornice.

The primary facade, which faces to the east onto Dewey Avenue, is symmetrically organized around a central storefront spanned by a wide central arch, with two narrow flanking arches which frame doorways. The central window is divided into four panels, with two narrow sidelights. Above this, multiple, square, stained-glass pieces set on point fill the transom space within the main spandrel. Single glass doors are placed into each doorway and capped with a rounded transom. Granite blocks form the bases to pilasters between these openings, and granite steps lead to the doorways.

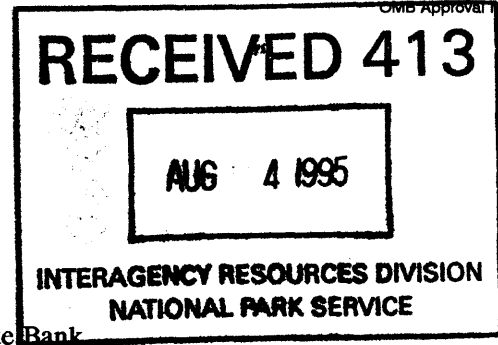
The north facade runs along Third Street, with a secondary entrance near the rear. On the first story, large round arches house windows which follow the four-panel with rounded transom motif. A pair of smaller round arches cover two openings -- the rear doorway designed to match those on the front facade, and a second opening which appears originally to have housed a door but now contains a glass window, double hung 1-over-1.

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The west facade is dominated by a large, open, projecting wooden porch across the upper story. The current porch was added in 1985 and is a replacement for what originally served to access the rear first and second stories. Constructed of peeled and unpeeled wooden poles, with milled decking and stair risers, the porch was covered with a shed roof of corrugated metal in 1990. The brick masonry is less decorative on this elevation, and includes flat brick arches above openings housing double-hung 1-over-1 windows. The doorway on the first floor is sheltered by a projecting, gable-roofed vestibule of wood with clapboard siding. On the second story, a partially lit panel door is set at center and opens onto the porch.

The south side of the building is basically a planar masonry wall, abutting a single story commercial building. The exposed brickwork on the bank's upper story is interrupted only by a small, square window opening near the center, housing a casement window.

On the interior, the first floor remains an open commercial space and retains wooden trim on the windows and original tin ceiling. Vault doors were removed, and a portion of the ceiling toward the rear lowered, but otherwise the interior design of the first floor remains as original. On the second floor, there has been a fair amount of remodelling. Ceilings were lowered during the 1960s, and some walls have been rearranged and the entrance to the upper level from the front has been closed off.

### Integrity

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank is a well preserved building, retaining a very high level of integrity. Recent efforts to refurbish the building have been sensitive to the original design and character of the bank. On the primary facades all aspects of integrity are excellent with original fabrics and design intact and unaltered. The west facade at the rear has been impacted by the replacement of original wooden porches by open pole construction. However, this is a secondary elevation tucked away from common viewing, and the scale and massing do follow original contours although with less finished materials than would have originally been used. In all, the building very strongly conveys its historic associations, its important role in the founding and early growth of Eureka, and its links to the early economic vitality of the community.

On the interior, the first floor remains relatively unchanged and still in commercial use. The upper level has been converted to residential use, however; this change has not affected the building's exterior nor impacted its ability to convey its history. It is also in keeping with patterns of use of many early 20th century commercial buildings when people commonly resided above commercial ventures.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C      Areas of Significance: Commerce, Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a      Period(s) of Significance: 1907 - 1925

Significant Person(s): n/a      Significant Dates: 1907

Cultural Affiliation: n/a      Architect/Builder: Blake & Son, builders

### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank, located on the main street of Eureka, is a visual reminder of the genesis of the town of Eureka (then known as Deweyville). The bank was integrally linked to the settlement of this community, having housed both the financial institution -- the Farmers and Merchants State Bank -- which supported many of the valley's initial economic developments, and the Townsite Company. For these important associations, the bank is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places according to Criterion A. The bank building gains significance for its architectural values according to Criterion C, as an excellent and well preserved example of Western Commercial styling, representative of many such small town banks which proliferated throughout Montana during the early 20th century.

### Historical Significance

Construction of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank building began in September 1907 and was completed in April 1908. Built by Blake and Son of Kalispell, the building was constructed with bricks made from local clay deposits, manufactured two miles south of town. The total cost was \$12,000.

In addition to housing the bank, the first floor of the building also housed the Townsite Company, which was responsible for promoting the growth of the area. Promotional material of the time advertised Deweyville as a booming agricultural center, boasting exceptional crops of wheat, barley, timothy, potatoes and orchards of fruit trees. Part of the area's agricultural future relied upon the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. The very growth in agriculture that supported the need for a bank also ironically caused the bank's demise -- the heavy investment in the irrigation project, combined with the closure of the Eureka Lumber Mill in 1923, resulted in the bank's failure in 1925.

The second floor of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank building was originally rented to the town at \$14/month, and was the location of the police court and council chambers. After the bank's failure, the building was purchased by H.G. Pomeroy, the original town clerk and attorney.

Mr. Pomeroy sold the building in 1932 to the famed Flathead County (later changed to Lincoln County) Sheriff, Frank Baney, for a nominal sum as a result of depression real estate prices. The building remained in the Baney family until 1980, with the exception of one brief period of ownership by Dorothy Bendetti in 1954. Throughout this time, the building remained in use, housing a wide variety of diverse businesses, including a dentist's office, a dance studio, the REA office, the soil conservation office, among others. Remarkably, despite its wide variety of uses, the building's exterior remained virtually unchanged.

The building was purchased in 1988 by Johanna and Robert Brown, who currently operate the first floor as their pottery business and use the second floor as their residence. The Farmers and Merchants State Bank building, now known as Brown's Pottery, is an attractive example of early 20th century architecture, and remains an anchor of the look of main street today, helping define the character and personality of Eureka.

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### Architectural Significance

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank is an excellent example of an early 20th century, small town bank. Such small banks proliferated across Montana during the first two decades of the 1900s, with the influx of population and emphasis on settlement in the state's agricultural lands. The Farmers and Merchants State Bank reflects the stripped down, popular Western Commercial style commonly seen in the business districts of emergent Montana towns.

This pragmatic style combined simple one or two story brick construction with simple embellishments, yielding functional buildings with a bit of flair. The Farmers and Merchants State Bank represents a number of elements common to the style: blocky, rectangular massing, first story storefront, recessed entrances, simple but decorative brick coursings girding the body of the building, false parapet with a decorative brick cornice and inset panels. While flat- or segmentally-arched openings were generally the rule, the wide, rounded arch on the storefront of this bank is unusual and lends the building a fair amount of distinction.

Since 1907, the Farmers and Merchants State Bank building has held a solid presence within Eureka's commercial district. While the bank's activities ended long ago, the building today houses a healthy local business and remains an important component of downtown Eureka.

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

Eureka, City of City Building Records

Fosgreen & Assoc. Environmental Impact Study for Eureka Highway Development Project, pp. 66-67.

Griffin, C.A. (editor) "Lincoln County, Montana", Western Montana Publishing Co., 1929.

Lincoln County Deed Records Deweyville Listings in Lincoln County Tractbook, p. 11.

Pomeroy, H.G. Correspondence of August 7, 1929.

*Tobacco Valley News* Photograph: "Eureka: A Blueprint", vol. 19., no date given.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other - Specify Repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property:** less than one

<b>UTM References:</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
	11	642800	5415800

**Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):** Located in the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 14, T36N, R27W.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank occupies Lot 12, Block 3 in the Eureka Original Townsite (formerly Deweyville).

**Boundary Justification**

This is the property associated with the bank since its construction in 1907.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Johanna Brown, owner and Chere Jiusto, SHPO staff	
organization: Brown's Pottery	date: April 1995
street & number: PO Box 1200	telephone: (406) 296-2247
city or town: Eureka	state: MT zip code: 59917

**Property Owner**

name/title: Johanna D. and Robert L. Brown	
street & number: PO Box 1200	telephone: (406) 296-2247
city or town: Eureka	state: MT zip code: 59917