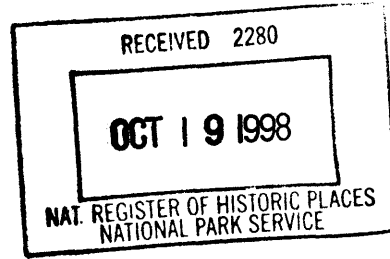


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Gregory County State Bank

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Fairfax vicinity N/A  
state South Dakota code SD county Gregory code 053 zip code 57335

**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.)

Jay D. Voigt  
Signature of certifying official

10-05-98  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

*Edson H. Beall* 11.19.98

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

*[Signature]*

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	objects
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE / TRADE</u>	Sub: <u>Financial Institution</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Post Office</u>
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE / TRADE</u>	Sub: <u>Business</u>
<u>COMMERCE / TRADE</u>	Sub: <u>Specialty Store</u>
<u>COMMERCE / TRADE</u>	<u>Department Store</u>

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
SULLIVANESQUE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Brick</u>
roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
walls	<u>Brick, Terra Cotta cladding, granite</u>
other	_____
	_____
	_____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce \_\_\_\_\_  
 Economics \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1918 - 1929 Significant Dates 1918  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
 (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository: South Dakota State Historic Society, Pierre, South Dakota

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing	
1	_____	3	_____
2	_____	4	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Pam Sides, Planner III, with technical assistance from Stephen Rogers, SDSHPOorganization Planning and Development District IIIdate February 24, 1998street & number PO Box 687 telephone (605) 665- 4408city or town Yankton state SD zip code 57078

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Fairfaxstreet & number Main Street telephone (605) 754-2433city or town Fairfax state SD zip code 57335

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Narrative Description**

The Gregory County State Bank building in Fairfax is one of the few remaining decorative terra cotta buildings in South Dakota. The two-story building is located on a corner lot on Main Street in Fairfax, South Dakota. The brick structure, built circa 1918, is clad on the facade and south walls with terra cotta and granite, with west and north walls left showing the structural brick. The foundation is constructed of brick reinforced with structural clay tile. The original granite stoop is still intact at the front entrance of the building.

The two-story facade consists of intricate scroll and design work on the terra cotta front at the cornice level, and front door portico. Other features include a balanced pair of inset panels, highlighted with a narrow band of cream terra cotta, scrollwork at the corners of a low-pitched gable parapet, and floral motifs on either side of an eagle. The common bond terra cotta facade still bears the name "Gregory State Bank" and a definitive entrance which is highlighted by an ornate curved hood portico. Matching scroll-design brackets on either side support the portico. Below the brackets are two decorative floral panels with a cream-colored terra cotta background. The entrance is recessed into the facade accentuated by a heavy granite stoop. The stoop is the original granite block that was installed during construction. Also on the second story of the façade is a large wood frame window. The windows on the second story are the original wood and defined with a tri-mullion appearance. The large windows are defined with a large window with 12 true divided lights with 2 smaller windows on either side. 8 true divided lights define the smaller windows. The original windows on the first floor matched the second story windows, but they have been replaced with a series of three plate glass display windows.

The south elevation features the same common bond course work as the facade. The same terra cotta is continued, as is the granite stone which accentuates the darker base. Large wood framed windows dominate the south elevation. The second story windows are of the same triple window design as the second story windows on the façade. Nine of these window grouping run from the front to the rear of the building. Below the first five of these windows, counting from the front, is a shorter set of the same style windows. Three entryways exist two-thirds of the way back from the front of the building. The first and second doors feature two small four-over-one windows, one on each side. The third is covered by a flat roofed metal canopy, which also reflects the Sullivan influence. At the east and west ends of this elevation are two-story elements that project slightly from the main wall. Both feature a gable parapet similar to the façade. The east area features a tall inset panel with the cream-colored highlight. Below this panel is a small enclosed window with small, floral pattern with cream background panels. The west end features two small inset panels with cream highlights, one above and one below a single twelve light window.

The west elevation features a pair of six light windows and a single covered window at the ground level. The second story features a pair and a single window all of which have been partially covered. These windows have brick sills. There is a single door with a transom and an arched lintel at the northwest corner

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Narrative description continues

of this elevation. The north elevation is a featureless brick wall.

The interior is divided into two main areas. The front area was the original bank and consists of a large open space with two small mezzanines at the front and rear. The main level contains original ceilings. Large beams with ornate scrollwork support the ceilings. Ornate brackets punctuate the end of each beam. The walls are stone and marble. The marble was quarried from Minnesota and extends from the floor to 36" in height along the walls. Currently, the walls are painted one color from the floor line to approximately 36" up, and another up to the ceiling. The main floor is partially covered with large slabs of marble, on half of the floor. The remaining floors appear to be poured concrete. Currently, the floor is partially covered with linoleum with portions exposing the marble beneath.

The west end of the building housed the old town post office, barber shop, and a bathroom. The barber/beauty shop and the post office have altered the original design. The post office was originally located in the building circa 1924. These areas were altered with paneling and drop ceilings.

The Basement retains the old bank vault, furnace room/fuel bin, utility storage room and jail. The vault is poured concrete and in perfect condition. The original metal vault door is still intact.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
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**Statement of Significance**

The Gregory County State Bank in Fairfax is significant under National Register criteria A and C. Under Criterion A it demonstrates the early affluence of the town and the confidence of the bank owners that prosperity would continue. Under Criterion C the building is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the Sullivanesque style in South Dakota. It is also one of the only examples of architecture in South Dakota using terra cotta for cladding and decoration. The bank relates to the South Dakota Historic Context IV. Depression And Rebuilding(1893-1929) A. Changing Urban Patterns.

Historical background and significance

The town of Fairfax was the first town platted after the opening of the eastern portion of the Rosebud Indian reservation to settlement. The town began in 1891 and slowly began to grow as homesteaders moved into to the area and began to need supplies. In 1901, when the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad was extended from Nebraska to Fairfax, the town began to boom and prosper. Fairfax was designated the county seat. The three most prestigious buildings constructed in Fairfax were the bank, the Starcher Block building and the Fairfax School. Only the bank survives today.

CA Johnson established the Gregory County State Bank in 1893 in a small wood frame building. In 1913 the bank moved into the Starcher Block until circa 1918, when the terra cotta building was erected. It is located on the southeast corner of Main and Randall Streets in downtown Fairfax.

The bank closed in 1929 due to the failing economy and loss of funds. Since Fairfax is an agricultural community, the drought brought a serious strain on area farmers. Due to loss of crops and low prices for agricultural products, the bank was forced to close.

The bank's closure was due to the federal depository law that stated that any bank that dropped below five percent of its deposits were forced to close. When the bank was ordered to close, customers received  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1% of their total deposits. The board of directors were: Frank W. Woods, President, D. E. Coffee, Vice-president, and J.R. Kosta, Cashier. Though the building ceased to serve as a bank, other businesses utilized the building.

The town's Post Office was also housed in the building up through 1997. Circa 1924 the postmaster moved the post office from a smaller building into the more stately and centrally located bank building. Even when the building stopped serving the community as a bank, it continued to serve as the Post Office.

The bank building is one of the only intact historic structures in the Town of Fairfax. Changes in the town

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Statement of significance continues

over the years have led to a loss of many of the original buildings and the alteration of others to the extent that they have lost their integrity. Not only is architecturally significant locally, the building is one of the only terra cotta clad buildings in the state of South Dakota. This was the second location of the bank in the Town of Fairfax and cost \$60,000 to build. The granite and marble used to construct the bank was quarried in Minnesota. The building retains its exterior integrity and a majority of its interior integrity. The decorative terra cotta makes the building stand out among the simpler buildings on Main Street. Only minor alterations over time have changed the bank's appearance. A set of three display windows on the front façade has replaced the original, wood frame, multi-light windows. An enclosure at the southeast corner of the building was added as an exterior entrance to the basement. Rear windows have been covered and modifications like paneling and drop ceilings have been done to the west end of the interior.

The bank building is a significant reminder of the early prosperity of Fairfax. The town has declined in population and is no longer booming. This building tells the story of a time when a small South Dakota town was striving to become a thriving community. Its architecture is an important feature on the South Dakota landscape as it is one of a handful of Sullivan-esque style buildings and one of an even smaller number with terra cotta decoration.

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**Bibliographical References**

Early Banking Days in Fairfax, term paper by Traci Hausmann, March 6, 1979

Personal Interviews with Krambeck, Irwin, February 23, 1979, regarding the history of Fairfax

Personal Interviews with George and Esther Pratt, February 20, 1979, regarding the history of the bank

Gregory County Golden Jubilee Book : 1898 - 1948, Gregory County Historical Society

Saga of the Missouri River Reveille, a 500 page history of Ft Randall, Fairfax, Bonesteel and Gregory County

United States Post Office, Appointment Division, Washington, DC, April 5, 1992.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 95 North, Range 68 West, in the County of Gregory State of South Dakota.

**Boundary Justification**

The property includes the land historically associated with the Gregory County State Bank building.