



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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 an 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 Delmont State Bank
other names/site number Delmont City Hall

2. Location

street & number 104 West Main Street [] not for publication
city or town Delmont [] vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county Douglas code 043 zip code 57330

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: Jay D. Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 12-18-2007
South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
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 certifying official/Title
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [X] entered in the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
[] other, explain
[] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper: Robert H. Beall
Date of Action: 2-19-08

Delmont State Bank
Name of Property

Douglas County, South Dakota
County/State

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

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade

Financial Institution

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government

City Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Tar

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Delmont State Bank
Name of Property

Douglas County, South Dakota
County/State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1903

Significant Dates

1903

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

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Delmont State Bank
Douglas County, South Dakota

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DESCRIPTION

The Delmont State Bank, built in 1903, is located at 104 West Main Street in Delmont South Dakota. It is a one story commercial brick building with a concrete foundation and a flat roof slanting from front to back.

The façade (south elevation) includes three different openings; one large single pane picture window on the left, a smaller one pane window located in the center and the primary door entrance on the right. Originally the main entrance door was recessed but later enclosed for energy purposes. Each of the openings features slightly arched brick hoodmolds. Four brick pilasters with concrete capitals divide the openings. A parapet wall above the roofline includes a centralized section of ten triangular corbelled brick formations with three elongated candle like recessed panels on each side. Concrete caps the top of the parapet section which rises gently to the center from both the east and west ends of the building. In the center of the very top of the building, located in the concrete cap, is embossed the year 1903 representing the year in which the building was built.

Both the west and east elevations abut other buildings.

The north elevation of the building features only one opening, a small rear entrance door. A smooth concrete surface covers the north wall.

The interior floor plan of the bank remains intact and the two bank vaults are still in place. The original heavy wooden door for the front entrance is still there. The bank retains its original wooden moldings and trim on the interior.

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Delmont State Bank
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SIGNIFICANCE**Introduction:**

The Delmont State Bank Building, located in Douglas County in the southeast part of the state, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of the significant role that it had in the financial and commercial development in the Delmont area. The building is also eligible under Criterion C as good example of the commercial style of architecture that was prevalent in many rural South Dakota towns in the early part of the 20th century.

Historical Background

The largest groups of American Indians present in South Dakota directly before white settlement were the Nakota, Dakota, and Lakota, known collectively as the Sioux. Anthropologists believe that the Sioux were pushed out of Minnesota onto the plains where they became the dominant group by the mid to late 1700's, although tribal creation stories tell of the Sioux inhabiting the area since time immemorial. The Dakota and Nakota lived east of the Missouri River while the Lakota roamed the western half of the state. The Sioux were eventually forced onto reservations through a series of questionable treaties that opened up land for white settlement.

When the Dakota Territorial Legislature of 1873 first created Douglas County as a geographical entity, there were no known permanent residents living within the 445 square miles of undulating prairie grasslands so designated. At the time, all the legislative action accomplished was to fill a void on the map between Charles Mix to the west and Hutchinson to the east, both of which had been established eleven years earlier.¹

Democrat representatives in Yankton prevailed in their attempt to have the new county named in honor of Stephen Arnold Douglas, who defeated Abraham Lincoln in a senatorial election and then lost his presidential bid against the same opponent in 1860.²

All early South Dakota towns worked desperately at having the newly constructed railroad lines pass through their community. Delmont was no exception. Delmont, known as the "gateway to Douglas County", had its own eager supporters and an irrepressible promoter named Thomas Ball, who platted the site. He visualized the town as the rail supply point for the Yankton Indian Agency to the south. Within a few weeks, 20 buildings were erected on stone foundations.³ Eventually however, the railroad terminus for the area was established in Armour, another Douglas county community that had successfully convinced the railroad that their town offered the most.

¹ Robert Karolevitz, *Douglas County, "The Little Giant"*, Douglas County Historical Society, Armour, SD, 1983

² Ibid

³ Ibid

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The true origin of Delmont's name seems to have been lost in the rush to bring the town into existence. Some said it was named for its location on a hill ("mont") overlooking the valley ("dell") of East Choteau Creek. Another version, undoubtedly embellished in the retelling, had to do with the first meal eaten by railroad surveyors on the site. As one of the men finished his prairie chicken pie, he supposedly said: "I never tasted better at Delmonico's (a popular eastern restaurant of the day). Somehow that was corrupted to Delmontee, further shortened to Delmont.⁴

Although people commonly think architecture applies only to individual buildings, South Dakota towns and their commercial district, in particular, also possess architectural character. The physical conditions and building styles that prevailed when a community was founded strongly influenced its built environment. The first set of buildings and the city layout also set the stage onto which later buildings positioned.⁵

The first banks erected in newly founded late-nineteenth century towns were typically small, wooden, false-fronted affairs that required a sign saying "Bank" to inform passers-by of their function. The majority of South Dakota's substantial bank buildings were constructed later, during the 1880's and from 1900 to 1920, when local and national economies were thriving. During this later era, these buildings took on an architectural conspicuousness that said "here is a bank". Because security was a necessity and owners wished to convey a sense of substance and prosperity, financial establishments were increasingly constructed of brick and, where available, stone.⁶

By catering to the swelling demand for services, these buildings could generate income, yet they represented a comparatively small investment. Often their most important purpose was defraying the costs of land that was likely to increase in value and thus at some future time support a larger, more profitable building. More often than not, these ventures met with success, if not always as soon as anticipated.⁷

Most of these commercial buildings constructed during the late 19th century, early 20th century, were used as retail stores. In many cases, the street frontage is narrow and the façade comprises little more than plate glass windows and an entry surmounted by a cornice or parapet.⁸

⁴ Ibid

⁵ David Erpestad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota, A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945*, South Dakota State Historical Society Press, Pierre, SD 1997 p.120

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

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During the fur-trading era in the Dakota country the fur companies of St. Louis were the bankers for all of this section. Very little cash was brought up the Missouri river at any time. Payments for services or property were made in orders upon the company, and wages were left upon deposit there until the employee returned to civilization. All purchases made in the wilderness were upon credit charged against the employee's account for wages. As a result, there was scarcely any necessity for money. Occasionally some thrifty frontiersman who had permanently established himself upon the upper river demanded and received his returns for labor, furs, or livestock in cash, that he might have the satisfaction of looking upon the coin, but when he had received it into his possession, and the first enjoyment of its tangible presence was over, he found a real encumbrance to him. His ordinary resource was to bury it in the earth.⁹

With the great homesteading and town building boom, setting in about 1878, banks sprung up everywhere, and though in the very nature of things some adventurers came and set up wild-cat and unstable banks. However, the great majority of the banks established in the early days were under the management of prudent men of high integrity. Surprisingly, many of these financial institutions still exist and are relied upon and trusted by the community. The majority of small town banks that date back to the early eighties have withstood the storms of two panics and still are enjoying the confidence and the prosperity due to honest management and fair dealing.¹⁰

The banking industry in South Dakota hasn't always been on solid ground, especially in smaller towns. Prior to the stock market crash of 1929, many rural areas like South Dakota were already beginning to fall into an economic depression. As farm and land prices fell, farmers became unable to meet their financial obligations, sparking a banking crisis. From 1920 to 1925 there were 23,000 farm foreclosures in South Dakota, forcing 175 banks to close in the state during that same period.¹¹

Property History and Significance

The Delmont State Bank was one of two banks in Delmont during the early 1900's. The primary owners of the bank included Paul Misterek, who also owned the local hardware store, and Fred Litz. Both banks had a successful operation in the Delmont area until the Great Depression befell. The Delmont State Bank, like the vast majority of banks in the country, participated in the historic bank holiday in which bank customers were paid off a percentage of their deposits. Even in paying off only a portion to depositors, many banks still failed and closed their doors for good. That was the case with the other bank in Delmont, the Security State Bank that folded in 1933. After struggling during those depression years, the Delmont State bank restored order and became the primary financial institution in Delmont that still exists today. In 1966 the Delmont State Bank merged with the First State Bank of Armour and was renamed the First State Bank, Delmont branch. The Delmont State Bank building, constructed in 1903, housed the banking business until 1976 at which time a new and larger building was built. The bank then proceeded to sell its original building to the City of Delmont for \$1. Since 1976 the old bank building has served as the city finance office.¹²

⁹ Doane Robinson, *History of South Dakota*, Volume I, 1904, South Dakota State Historical Society Archives p.473-476

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Michelle Dennis, *Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941* (Pierre, SD: State Historic Preservation Office, 1998) p.5

¹² Norbert Wenzel, former President of the First State Bank, Delmont Branch, *Personal Correspondence*, November, 2007

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The Delmont State Bank building represents those banks that were constructed when economic times were good shortly after the turn of the 19th century. These banks were more architecturally impressive having been constructed with brick rather than wood. The building with its decorated façade of corbelled brick is a good example of the one story commercial type building that exists yet in many small towns across South Dakota.

The Delmont State Bank Building is also significant for its role as a commercial and financial leader in the community. The ability of the bank to survive the great depression as well as the dirty thirties in South Dakota reflects its sound financial management and subsequently the trust and confidence of the community. The bank has been a pillar of strength even in tough times.

Architecturally the bank has experienced very few changes in over a century. On the exterior, the only change has been the enclosure of the recessed main entry. This was done for energy saving purposes. It does not constitute enough of a change to compromise the historic integrity of the building. Except for lowered ceilings on the interior, everything including the floor plan has stayed the same.

The building is still located on the original site, and it still has the basic features of its design. The setting is unchanged except for the function of the building as the city finance office rather than a bank. It is still in the middle of the downtown commercial district. The building retains its historic materials and workmanship. The feeling and association of the building is intact and it still looks like a bank with the vaults still in place.

Conclusion

The Delmont State Bank Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it is a good example of the commercial style in small town South Dakota. Having one story and a box like structure with a decorated façade and a parapet roof, the Delmont Bank Building exemplifies main street buildings that were constructed during the early time period of small town development in rural South Dakota. The Delmont State Bank is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of the important role it played in the economic and financial development of the local businesses in the Delmont area.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the Delmont State Bank is an imaginary line encompassing only the bank building itself. The line starts at a point 10 feet south of the southeast corner of the building and runs west to a point 10 feet south of the southwest corner of the building. The line then runs north to a point 15 feet north of the northwest corner of the building and then east to a point 15 feet north of the northeast corner of the building.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes only the bank building. There are no other buildings on the property.

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Douglas County, South DakotaSection number 10 Page 8**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1_ except as noted:

Name of Property: Delmont State Bank**County and State:** Douglas County, South Dakota**Photographer:** Mike Vogel**Date of Photographs:** September 12, 2007**Location of Originals:** South Dakota State Historical Preservation Office, Pierre, SD

Negatives:

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	North Delmont State Bank (DelmontStateBank_DouglasCounty_SD1tiff)