

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

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received 12/14/82

date entered

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

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

**1. Name**

historic Union National Bank and Annex

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 2 N. Main and 7-11 E. Central Ave.

not for publication

city, town Minot

vicinity of

state North Dakota

code 38

county Ward

code 101

**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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Clayton Johnson, Elliot Obeden and Ralph Christenson

street & number 219 South Main

city, town Minot

vicinity of

state North Dakota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ward County Courthouse

street & number 301 Third Street Southeast

city, town Minot

state North Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

North Dakota Cultural Resources Survey  
title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date October 25, 1978

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of North Dakota

city, town Bismarck

state North Dakota

## 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 Union National Bank and Annex are two and three-story structures of concrete faced with Hebron, North Dakota brick and embellished with decorative Indiana sandstone. The main (west) facade of the bank is divided symmetrically into three bays; the center featuring a deeply recessed entry flanked with large Doric columns supporting the crowning entablature. The entablature includes a sandstone architrave previously used for the bank's inscription. Above the architrave is a projecting frieze consisting of brick and several small sandstone pilastrs that give a balustrade appearance to the vertically projecting cornice.

The main entrance has copper doors with glass panels flanked with narrow multi-paned side lights that extend up to the multi-paned transom. During a remodeling project in 1949 an aluminum structure was added to the entrance to form a vestibule. The wood architrave above the transomed entrance features small wood dentils below the projecting fascia, with two symmetrically placed finials. The clerestory above the entry is divided into three sections of multi-paned windows with dividing mullions placed in line with the jambs below.

The north and south bays of the west facade are treated identically, with projecting pilasters with sandstone capitals and exaggerated sandstone bases dividing the bays. The windows at the main level of these bays and the west bay on the south facade are a wood sash fixed lower unit with a hinged awning above. They are slightly recessed in brick soldier coursing, which forms a flat arch and extends down each side to the continuous sandstone base. Above each of these main level windows a sandstone square is set into the brick which previously bore the inscription of the bank.

The upper portion of the bank building is divided into two horizontal sections by continuous sandstone banding; the center band being the most elaborate, and each being a continuation of the crowning entablature. Lower level windows on the entire building are placed directly below the main level windows and are fixed obscure diamond wire glass set in a wood sash.

The south facade of the bank is divided into seven bays by masonry pilasters with sandstone bases and caps that rise to the horizontal banding above. The center five bays have main level wood frame windows which are divided vertically into double windows with the lower units being fixed and the upper portions hinged awning units. The clerestory wood frame windows are divided vertically into double multi-paned windows.

The east portion of the south facade of the bank has entrance doors to the main level and the basement, with a decorative wood canopy above. The windows directly above the canopy have been replaced over the years with glass block.

The Union National Bank Annex is a three-story structure occupying the east 60 feet of this property. The south facade is divided into three equal sections with two windows located in each section on the upper two floors. The existing windows are double-hung wood sash units that have been covered with aluminum double-hung storm windows. The main level has been completely reglazed with aluminum, spandrel, and glass display-type windows. An aluminum canopy extends out over the sidewalk and continues the full length of the building with colored spandrel panels above each of the four vertical divisions.

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Pilasters on the Annex's south facade extend up to a band above the second-story windows. The tops of these pilasters are decoratively embossed. The brick continues the pilasters to the parapet where they extend above with decorative sandstone caps. Between the vertical projections at the parapet the brick has been treated with horizontal soldier coursing to form rectangular relief patterns. The east elevation of the Annex is straight running bond brick. Existing wood sash windows on the east have also been glazed over with double-hung aluminum storm sashes.

The interior lobby of the bank continues the symmetry of the exterior. Inside the west door is a marble staircase with a brass rail leading up to the main banking floor and to office space below. The 24 foot high lobby ceiling is divided into rectangular sections by carved mahogany beams with plaster in-between the beams. The beams were painted and the plaster covered with acoustic tile in 1949.

The rectangular pattern of the beams is repeated on the floor with green Greek Tinos marble. The center of the floor is terrazzo and the perimeter areas on the east, north, and south are Tavernell marble. The green Greek Tinos marble was also used for wainscoting on the walls and tellers line; most of which was removed and replaced with wood panelling in the remodeling of 1949.

The lobby walls are plaster tooled to appear as stone block above the wainscoting. The office in the southeast corner of the bank building still has original finishes, with the door dark stained birch with round brass hardware and the wainscoting also of birch with a dark stain.

The stair to the basement has green Greek Tinos marble wainscoting and a curved header to the lobby. The plaster beams in the basement have an ornate molding on each side which has been painted in black and white. The basement flooring is asphalt tile and the walls are painted plaster.

The east end of the bank building is divided into two office floors above the basement. The top floor has a large window opening which forms a mezzanine above the lobby. Vaults are located on both floors. The walls are painted plaster with birch doors and trim.

The Annex is three stories in height above the basement. The heating plant for both buildings is located in the basement. The ground floor houses retail space and has been remodeled over the years. Offices are located on the second and third floors and still retain their fairly simple original finishes. The stairs are constructed of grey marble with marble bases and the walls are painted plaster.

## 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 checked="" 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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1924 & 1926 **Builder/Architect** George H. Bugenhagen and Frederick C. Klawiter

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Union National Bank and Annex buildings are significant because of their Classical Revival style and their association with the Union National Bank, a leading Minot institution. Designed to be dignified yet simple, the structure was a symbol of the bank's faith in the community. The Union National Bank not only decided to rebuild after a devastating 1923 fire, but also chose the Classical Revival style to portray the bank's image as a stable institution, a fact that was important during shaky economic times when the closing of area banks made daily headlines. In 1924 Minot citizens believed that symbolism was apparent in the new building; with stone used to represent protection, classical proportions to represent stability, and columns to express strength, beauty, and wisdom.

The Union National Bank was organized on February 15, 1905 by F. H. Wellcome, President of the Union Investment Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a group of local Minot men. The bank was located in small rented quarters in the Jacobson Opera House Building on the corner of Main and Central. In 1908, Minot men bought out the interests of the Union Investment Company to become a completely Minot-owned bank with Colonel Edward S. Person as president, a post he held until 1930. It was under Colonel Person's direction that the bank grew, eventually occupying the entire old Opera House Building, and also became a guiding influence in Minot's early history.

Edward S. Person began his banking career as a clerk immediately after high school and worked his way up to cashier at the Bank of Zombrota, Minnesota. In 1907 he moved to Minot to take the position of cashier at Union National Bank and in 1908 he accepted the presidency and steered the bank through its formative years. Owner of the Person Stock Farm, breeder of Guernsey dairy cattle, and President of the North Dakota State Dairymen's Association, Colonel Person promoted the concept of diversified farming in northwestern North Dakota. The Union National Bank was instrumental in shipping dairy cattle to the area to be sold to farmers at a low rate of interest. The promotion of the dairy industry won the title of "Cow Bank" for the Union National Bank, a name the bank claimed with pride.

On July 9, 1923 a disastrous fire destroyed the Union National Bank block and the adjacent Tompkins block. Moving into temporary quarters, the directors of the homeless Union National Bank announced a few days after the fire that they intended to rebuild in order to keep with the "progressive spirit maintained in Minot and this vicinity."<sup>1</sup>

By August of 1923 the new bank building, to be erected on the site of the burned Union National Bank block, was almost completely designed. George H. Bugenhagen, a prominent Minot architect, in association with St. Paul, Minnesota architect

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Minot Daily News, July 9, 1923, July 10, 1923, July 11, 1923, November 14, 1923, March 27, 1924, December 16, 1949, April 30, 1955, October 3, 1963.  
 Professional Qualifications submitted by Bugenhagen and Molander for the State of North Dakota Capitol Building Competition, Circa 1930.  
 Ward County Independent, August 9, 1923, August 23, 1923, October 4, 1923, February 28, 1924 and March 27, 1924.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre.  
 Quadrangle name Minot Quadrangle scale 1:2400

### UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	D	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 21 and 22, Block 19 of the Original Townsite, Minot, North Dakota.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state		code		county		code	

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Bonnie J. Halda, Historical Architect</u>		
organization	<u>State Historical Society of North Dakota</u>	date	<u>December, 1982 (revised)</u>
	<u>Anderson, Wade, Barsness &amp; Walter, P.C.</u>		<u>May, 1982</u>
street & number	<u>North Dakota Heritage Center</u>	telephone	<u>(701)224-2672</u>
	<u>720 Western Avenue</u>		<u>(701)852-4850</u>
city or town	<u>Bismarck</u>	state	<u>North Dakota</u>
	<u>Minot</u>		<u>North Dakota</u>

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*James E. Shroy*

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

date December 9, 1982

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Anna Lee Boyd*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 1/27/83

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*  
 Chief of Registration

date 1/24/83

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Frederick C. Klawiter, a specialist in designing bank facilities, produced the plans for the new building. Choosing a classic style of design, as "applied to the requirements of a banking institution,"<sup>2</sup> the architects wished to strike a balance between elegance and simplicity. The local newspapers announced in late 1923 that when the building would be completed, the Union National Bank would have "one of the very best banking houses in the west."<sup>3</sup>

Under the direction of Swen Olson and Company, a Minot contracting firm, work began on the foundation and basement of the building in August, 1923, before the design was finished. The foundation was engineered to support seven additional stories in order to provide for future growth. Also, the Union National Bank owned the adjacent lot to the east, with the intention of building a structure for retail and office purposes. Constructed to be fire-proof, an item the Union National Bank stressed at every opportunity, the bank building was almost exclusively built by local Minot firms and was completed just eight months after the fire.

Union National Bank threw open the doors of its new building by inviting the public to a grand celebration on March 29, 1924. The Minot Daily News devoted several articles, including a two page invitation featuring photographs and drawings, to the event. Declared a "magnificent new building"<sup>4</sup> the bank building had all the modern conveniences customers needed, from safety deposit boxes to meeting rooms. The Minot Association of Commerce considered "the opening of the new Union National Bank building an epoch marking event in the history of the development of Minot and northwest North Dakota . . . /and/ evidence of faith in the future of this vast agricultural empire of which Minot is the commercial center."<sup>5</sup> The Minot Daily News chimed in with their congratulations, stating that "from the ashes of the old bank building has been erected what may truly be termed a monument to this section of the state."<sup>6</sup>

The Union National Bank Annex to the east was built in 1926 for offices and retail stores, a use that continues today. Although it is not known if the Annex was designed by George H. Bugenhagen, the compatible style of the structure and the fact that Bugenhagen's office was located in the Annex after its completion, seem to point to the probability he designed the building.

The Union National Bank and Annex, located at the northern end of Minot's central business district, are the only buildings of their distinct style in Minot. Although George H. Bugenhagen practiced architecture in Minot for several years, the Union National Bank and Annex are his only Minot buildings that exhibit exclusively the Classical Revival style and are also the only buildings of his design in Minot which remain essentially unaltered.

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The Union National Bank building served the Union National Bank until new facilities were constructed nearby in 1963. Although abandoned by the bank for nearly twenty years, and since utilized by such groups as the United States Overseas, the building is still associated with the Union National Bank, an institution that has been a part of Minot's financial history for over seventy-five years.

- 1 Minot Daily News, July 11, 1923
- 2 Ward County Independent, August 23, 1923
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ward County Independent, March 27, 1924
- 5 Minot Daily News, March 27, 1924
- 6 Ibid.