

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JAN 4 1985  
date entered JAN 31 1985

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

1. Name

historic Bank of Bowdle

and/or common Bowdle Youth Center

2. Location

street & number 3026 Main Street

NA not for publication

city, town Bowdle

NA vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 46

county Edmunds

code 045

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 type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Bowdle Church of God

street & number P.O. Box 143

city, town Bowdle

NA vicinity of

state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Edmund County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

street & number 210 2nd Avenue

city, town Ipswich

state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date

NA federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records NA

city, town

state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Situated on the northwest corner of Main Street and Dumont Avenue, the Bank of Bowdle (now a Youth Center) is a one-story, rectangular building with a front portico supported by Roman Doric columns. The cream-colored brick building has an unadorned frame entablature crowned by a brick parapet and a raised central entranceway flanked by rectangular windows. Four rectangular windows (one enclosed) are located between six unfluted decorative pilasters on the side (east) facade. The west facade shares a common wall with the building next door. The rear facade has two rectangular windows and a door. All of the windows in the building have retained their original transoms, sills and lintels. A small brick chimney projects from the flat roof towards the rear of the building.

Although the ceilings have been covered with acoustic tile and the floors have been carpeted, the ceiling height and general floor plan of the building have been retained. The interior of the bank building displays much of the original woodwork including window and door surrounds, and baseboards. The elaborately carved door surround of the vault is especially beautiful with fluted Corinthian pilasters.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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** C. 1908 **Builder/Architect** NA

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

As the oldest bank building in town, the intact Bank of Bowdle (now a Youth Center), is significant in the area of commerce.

Bowdle became a booming town after the completion of the railroad. Construction of the railroad began from Ipswich west and terminated at Bowdle. The Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul to Bowdle was completed on September 9, 1886.<sup>1</sup> During this year, two banking institutions were established in the town: the People's Bank and the Bank of Bowdle. The former bank had closed down by 1904 but the latter grew. From 1893 until 1909, the Bank of Bowdle was located at 445 Main Street until increased business necessitated expansion. The Bowdle Pioneer stated on October 29, 1908 that "work has been commenced on the New Bank building..." and, by February 11, 1909, the bank "commenced doing business in their new building... which is a fine place to do business in, and the best location in town."<sup>2</sup> This location was at 3026 Main Street, the northwest corner of Main and Dumont Avenue.<sup>3</sup>

As a reaction to the fire that destroyed a large portion of the downtown business district at the turn-of-the-century, the bank was the first building to be constructed of brick on Main Street. Every effort was made to design the securest building possible. The Victor Safe Company, which made the vault for the bank, advertised their "fire proof" and "burglar proof" safes as "bigger better and stronger than ever."<sup>5</sup> Aesthetics were also an important consideration for the new building. The Bowdle Pioneer stated on November 19, 1908 that the bank "will be the prettiest building in the northwest part of the state," and, on December 24, 1908, "the interior finish is one of beauty and we doubt if its equal can be found in the state of South Dakota."<sup>6</sup>

Although no longer functioning as a bank (it is now a Youth Center after being used for a bakery and post office), the building has still retained many of its original features including its exterior brickwork, Roman Doric columns supporting the front portico, fenestration, its interior woodwork and walk-in vault with elaborate wood carvings surrounding the door. The building today is a visual reminder of the once prosperous Bank of Bowdle.

<sup>1</sup>"The History of Bowdle", from the Bowdle Diamond Jubilee Book, p.3.

<sup>2</sup>Bowdle Pioneer. October 29, 1908 and February 11, 1909.

<sup>3</sup>The first Bank of Bowdle, which was located at 445 Main Street, became a millinery shop. Bowdle Pioneer, November 26, 1908. The building was later torn down.

<sup>4</sup>Bowdle Diamond Jubilee Book, p.4.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bowdle Pioneer, April 21, 1904, October 29, 1908, November 19, 1908, November 26, 1908, December 3, 1908, December 24, 1908, February 11, 1909.  
Sanborn Perris maps: 1893, 1898, 1904, 1913  
Bowdle Diamond Jubilee Book.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Bowdle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	4	4	8	8	9	0	5	0	3	3	5	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the property is contained within the legal description: Lot 6 of Block 6 situated in the original plat of Bowdle, South Dakota.

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

state	NA	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rev. Samuel Saylor

organization Church of God date November 20, 1984

street & number 3084 8th Avenue telephone 605/285-6414

city or town Bowdle state South Dakota

## 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 

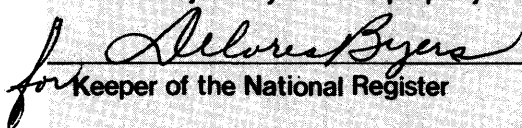
title Director / SHPO, South Dakota date 12/17/84

### For NPS use only

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

**Entered in the  
National Register**

date 1-31-85

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

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<sup>5</sup> Bowdle Pioneer, February 11, 1909.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., November 19, 1908