

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

State Inventory Number: 44-00203 New Supplemental

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: _____

Non-extant Year: _____

Read the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions carefully, to ensure accuracy and completeness before completing this form. The instructions are available on our website.

• **Property Name**

A) Historic name: First National Bank

B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-026

• **Location**

A) Street address: 101 S. Jefferson St

B) City or town: Mount Pleasant (Vicinity) County: Henry

C) Legal description:

Rural: Township Name: _____ Township No.: _____ Range No.: _____ Section: _____ Quarter: _____ of Quarter: _____

Urban: Subdivision: Original Block(s): _____ Lot(s): Lot 5 - N 44' of E 79'

• **Classification**

A) Property category: *Check only one*

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

B) Number of resources (within property):

<i>If eligible property, enter number of:</i>		<i>If non-eligible property, enter number of:</i>	
Contributing	Noncontributing		
<u>1</u>	Buildings	<u>—</u>	Buildings
<u>—</u>	Sites	<u>—</u>	Sites
<u>—</u>	Structures	<u>—</u>	Structures
<u>—</u>	Objects	<u>—</u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	Total	<u>—</u>	Total

C) For properties listed in the National Register:

National Register status: Listed De-listed NHL NPS DOE

D) For properties within a historic district:

- Property contributes to a National Register or local certified historic district.
- Property contributes to a potential historic district, based on professional historic/architectural survey and evaluation.
- Property *does not* contribute to the historic district in which it is located.

Historic district name: Mt Pleasant Downtown Historic District Historic district site inventory number: 44-02280

E) Name of related project report or multiple property study, if applicable:

MPD title Intensive Level Historical and Architectural Survey of Downtown Mt Pleasant, Iowa Historical Architectural Data Base # HADB-02986

• **Function or Use** *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Historic functions

02D02: COMMERCE/TRADE / bank

B) Current functions

02E: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store

• **Description** *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Architectural classification

06C: 20th CENTURY REVIVALS / Classical Revival

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 04C: Limestone

Walls (visible exterior): 04C: Limestone

Roof: 15C: Rubber

Other: _____

C) Narrative description *SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED*

Site Number: 44-00203 Address: 101 S. Jefferson St City: Mt Pleasant County: IA District Number: 44-02280

• **Statement of Significance**

A) Applicable National Register Criteria: *Mark your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria*

Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events. Yes No More research recommended
Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant persons. Yes No More research recommended
Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characteristics. Yes No More research recommended
Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archaeology/history. Yes No More research recommended

B) Special criteria considerations: *Mark any special considerations; leave blank if none*

A: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. E: A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 B: Removed from its original location. F: A commemorative property.
 C: A birthplace or grave. G: Property less than 50 years of age or
 D: A cemetery achieved significance within the past 50 years.

C) Areas of significance

Enter categories from instructions

05: Commerce

02: Architecture

D) Period(s) of significance

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1923 *check if circa or estimated date*
Other dates, including renovations

F) Significant person

Complete if Criterion B is marked above

G) Cultural affiliation

Complete if Criterion D is marked above

H) Architect/Builder

Architect

Builder/contractor

I) Narrative statement of significance **SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED**

• **Bibliography** *See continuation sheets for the list research sources used in preparing this form*

• **Geographic Data** *Optional UTM references* *See continuation sheet for additional UTM or comments*

Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD	Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD
1				2			
3				4			

• **Form Preparation**

Name and Title: Rebecca Lawin McCarley / research by Pat White Date: March 6, 2024
Organization/firm: SPARK Consulting / Mt Pleasant HPC E-mail: sparkconsulting@octaspark.com
Street address: 1630 Park Ave SE Telephone: 319-200-9767
City or Town: Cedar Rapids State: IA Zip code: 52403

• **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** *Submit the following items with the completed form*

A) For all properties, attach the following, as specified in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions:

- 1. Map** of property's location within the community.
- 2. Glossy color 4x6 photos labeled** on back with property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and unique photo number.
- 3. Photo key showing each photo number on a map and/or floor plan, using arrows next to each photo number to indicate the location and directional view of each photograph.**
- 4. Site plan** of buildings/structures on site, identifying boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints.

B) For State Historic Tax Credit Part 1 Applications, historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:

See lists of special requirements and attachments in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility:

Yes No More research recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

SHPO authorized signature: _____ Date: _____

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7. Narrative Description

This description is paraphrased and copied from the NRHP nomination for the property prepared by Molly Myers Naumann in 1991, with updated or corrected information as needed.

This bank building from 1923 is located at the north end of the west side of the square, on the southwest corner of Jefferson and Monroe Streets. The brick building is faced with Bedford stone on the east/front and north sides, with a height of a two-story building. Measuring 44'x79', the primary facade is the narrow end of the rectangle which faces Jefferson. The building is Classical Revival (or Neo-Classical) in design with a temple front. The tri-partite façade features a central door flanked by monumental fluted Corinthian columns. Paired pilasters are found at the corners of the facade. Large windows are located between the columns and pilasters. The windows are arranged in two levels, creating the impression of a two story building, when in actuality this was designed as a single tall story on the interior. The entablature features medallions, the words "First National Bank", and is capped by a simple classical cornice. A parapet is located above the cornice. The large windows are continued around the corner creating a five bay secondary facade on Monroe Street. Paired pilasters are found between these windows. A side entrance has replaced the window in the center bay. The entablature, cornice, and parapet also continue along the secondary facade. The primary and secondary elevations are of dressed ashlar limestone. The rear (west) elevation is not veneered and remains natural red brick, with segmental arched openings. Alterations to this building include new windows, small mosaic tile panels between the windows, and aluminum canopies over the entrances.

The rear of the bank building has wood stairs to an entry on the second story level. The area immediately to the west of the building is currently grass, with parking spaces along the alley at the west end.

Per the 1991 nomination: "On the interior there have been major, but reversible, changes. Originally, the main lobby area was a large, unbroken space two stories high. At the west end, there were small offices and the vault, with a mezzanine above. The most significant change was the installation of a suspended ceiling at the mezzanine level. The original ceiling and windows can be seen from the catwalk along the north wall. When the ceiling was lowered, walls were added, dividing the lobby space into two separate areas. The interior space has a completely different feeling now than it did originally, but restoration appears possible." The current interior was not assessed as part of the survey project.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

First National Bank appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building within the potential Mount Pleasant Downtown Historic District. The building contributes to the historic commercial character of the downtown, remaining as one of four bank buildings in the downtown. The construction in 1923 is significant within this period of limited development in downtown Mt Pleasant, and the Classical Revival design is architecturally significant in the downtown. After First National Bank merged into Henry County Savings Bank in 1930, the latter bank operated at this location into the 1970s. The building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a historic commercial building in a historic district.

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First National Bank was previously listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in 1991. The nomination states: "This building is significant under Criterion C as a good example of a Type IV building, a Neo-classical bank design from the 1920s. Bank buildings began appearing in this classical design early in the 20th century. By the 1920s most towns across the country boasted at least one of these "temples of finance." Many of these were tall, narrow buildings, only 20'-25' wide, which were almost overwhelmed by the monumental columns on the facade. The decision by architect Paul V. Hyland to make the Mount Pleasant bank the full 44' wide was a wise one. It produced a building with more pleasing proportions. The use of ashlar limestone for the bank was in keeping with the style, but it also was visually effective, because it became the only stone building fronting on the Square. The First National Bank was a dramatic departure from the architecture seen around the Square. Not only was it the only non-brick building, it did not follow the standard divisions of commercial design: storefront, upper level windows, cornice. It looked much more like a public building than a place to do business. There can be no doubt that the design of this building was based not only on what was considered appropriate for a bank building of the period, but also by the presence of the Henry County Courthouse on the far diagonal corner of the Square."

Developmental history of property

This 2-story building at 101 South Jefferson Street was constructed in 1923 for First National Bank. The architect of the building was Paul V. Hyland (1876-1966) and the contractor, Stiles Construction Company, both from Chicago.

Presley Saunders (1809-1889) owned the S 20' of the N 44' of lot 5 and Alvin Saunders (1817-1899, brother of Presley Saunders) owned the N 24' of lot 5 in the 1860s. They were early pioneer settlers in Mt Pleasant. On March 22, 1867, A. Saunders and wife, sell the N 24' of lot 5 to the First National Bank (Transfer Book "A", page 6).

Per the 1893 city directory, Presley Saunders opened store in 1836 on the present site of First National Bank. The business grew, and he started also receiving deposits and selling exchange to his customers in the 1840s. In spring 1855, he established the first bank in Henry Co, known as the Banking House of P.A. and W.A. Saunders, with Alvin Saunders (brother) and William A. Saunders (cousin). The name shifted to Saunders, Kibben, & Co in 1862. The bank evolved to the newly created First National Bank of Mt. Pleasant in 1864, with Presley Saunders elected as president. He remained president until his death in 1889 (*Mt Pleasant City Directory* 1893: 50).

The corner building was the location of A. & W.A. Saunders Bank per the 1859-60 city directory. An advertisement in September 1859 notes that A. & W.A. Saunders were bankers and dealers in exchange, as well as agents for the purchase and sale of real estate (*Home Journal*, September 29, 1859, 1). In July 1859, African American barber Boling Bowser moved his barber shop to the rear of the corner building, noted as one door west of Saunders' Bank on Monroe St. He advertised as the best shave or hair cut west of the Mississippi, with the leading daily and weekly papers available (*Home Journal*, July 21, 1859; *Home Journal*, September 22, 1859, 2). In this period, the other primary barber shop in town was operated by another African American barber, Charles Davis, in the rear/east room of the Brazelton House. Both Bowser and Davis moved to Iowa in 1856. Boling Bowser moved out of Mt Pleasant in 1860, while Davis remained a barber in town.

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The 1867 city directory notes that the First National Bank of Mt Pleasant was organized on January 19, 1864, at the southwest corner of Jefferson and Monroe. Officers included president Presley Saunders, cashier L.W. Vale, bookkeeper John W. Martin, and assistant bookkeeper T.H. Van Hon. Directors included P. Saunders, J.M. Kibben, H. Ambler, Charles Snider, E.L. Penn, Daniel Phillips, William G. Saunders, and J.B. Vernon (*Mt Pleasant Directory* 1867: 34). As noted, the corner property was sold by Alvin Saunders to First National Bank in March 1867, with a new three-story Italianate building constructed on this site. Presley Saunders also built a building to the west of the corner building in 1867. The first story had commercial space, with Saunders Hall located on the second story (“Saunders New Hall,” *Mt Pleasant Journal*, November 1, 1867, clipping file). This building stood to the rear/west of First National Bank and the commercial building to the south for decades, shown as connected to the buildings facing S. Jefferson St on the Sanborn maps.

Only African Americans operated barber shops in Mt Pleasant in the 1860s and 1870s. The 1867 city directory lists Charles Davis as operating a barber shop in the east room of the Brazelton House, noted as 9 E. Monroe St. Charles Davis married Mary E. Mason in Springfield, Ohio, prior to moving to Mt Pleasant in 1856, with several members of the Mason family subsequently moving to Mt Pleasant as well. The 1867 city directory lists William H. Mason as a barber in the west room of the First National Bank building, noted as on the south side of W. Monroe two west of Jefferson. The 1867 directory lists several other African American barbers in town, working for Davis or Mason. John Bell and Edward Fidler (who married Melvina Mason) are working at Mason’s location, and Henry Mason is also listed as a barber, likely in the same shop. Charles Davis Jr worked for his father, and Samuel McCracken is listed as boarding next door to Davis. His obituary notes that he moved to Mt Pleasant in fall 1866, working as a barber for Charles Davis before opening up his own shop. In June 1869, Samuel H. McCracken and Edward Fidler announced that they had opened a new barber shop in the west room of the First National Bank building, with particular attention also given to sharpening of razors (“New Firm!” *Henry County Press*, June 9, 1869, 1). The partnership was short-lived, with S.H. McCracken noting in September 1869 that he now had entire possession of the shop, which would be known as the Bon Ton Barber Shop (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, September 10, 1869, 5). Four barbers were listed in the 1870 city directory: Charles Davis (Monroe St), S.H. McCracken (Monroe St), J. Henry Mosely (Main, corner Monroe), and J. Nichols (south side of the square). Samuel H. McCracken would operate his barber shop in this location in the rear room of the First National Bank until 1885 when he moved to the north side of the square to the rooms under the post office at 123 W. Monroe St, returning to this location from 1896 to 1920 (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, September 10, 1885, 2; *Free Press*, November 26, 1896, 2; “Dean of Local Barbers,” *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, March 2, 1920, 3).

The 1886 Sanborn fire insurance map shows this brick building on the corner of Jefferson and Monroe, with the front/Jefferson Street side, facing east towards the public square and extending west to the alleyway. The Monroe Street side faces to the north. The front/east portion of the building is divided into two sections (#16 & #15), both 3-stories in height. The address of the north section of the building is #16 Jefferson, with a bank on the 1st floor; offices on the 2nd floor and a Hall on the 3rd floor. There are stairs at the rear of #16 and an open doorway leading to a small rear room, which is vacant. The address of the south, 3-story section of the building is #15 Jefferson and the 1st floor is used for a dry goods store, with stairs on the front, north wall. An open doorway on the 2nd floor, north wall of #15, leads into the 2nd floor of #16, the adjacent building. An open doorway on the 2nd floor, rear wall of #15, opens onto a very large Opera House, which extends west to the alley and north to Monroe, wrapping around the back/west

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wall of #16. A place for a stage and scenery is shown on the west wall of the 2nd floor Opera House. The west part of the brick building is 2 stories in height, divided into store fronts on the 1st floor, facing Monroe Street on the north and extending to the south, to the rear of #16 and #15. East to west, the addresses are #208, #207, #206 and #205, with #205 offering agricultural implements.

The *Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County* in 1888 noted that there were two solid financial institutions in Mt Pleasant. The First National Bank was organized in 1864, with \$75,000 capital that had been increased to \$100,000. Presley Saunders was president, and T.J. Van Hon was cashier. The other bank was the National State Bank, chartered in February 1865 with John H. Whiting as president (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County* 1888: 677).

The 1892 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for this corner brick building as the previous map. The address for #16 is also 101 S Jefferson. A bank is on the 1st floor, offices on the 2nd and the 3rd floor is a Hall. The small rear room remains shown as vacant. The address for the building to the south at #15 is also shown as 103 S Jefferson, and it is a dry goods store. The two-story building remains to the rear/west of both buildings. The large Opera House is still shown on the 2nd floor, accessed by stairs from Monroe St and connected with an opening to #15/103. The agricultural implements store in the rear/west space has two addresses shown: #205 & #210 W Monroe.

A third bank opened in Mt Pleasant in 1891, the Henry County Savings Bank. This new bank, First National Bank, and National State Bank were listed in the 1893 city directory. The 1893 city directory notes that Presley Saunders remained president of First National Bank until his death in 1889. Charles Snider then became president, until he died in 1891. W.G. Saunders then became president. The bank had capital of \$100,000. The board of directors included: W.G. Saunders, E.L. Penn, Smith Saunders, H.E. Snider, T.J. Van Hon, and W.E. Keeler. Officers were W.G. Saunders, president; E.L. Penn, vice president; T.J. Van Hon, cashier, and W.E. Keeler, assistant cashier (*Mt Pleasant City Directory* 1893: 50).

The 1899 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for this brick building as the previous maps. The S Jefferson Street addresses are now 101 and 103. 101 S Jefferson is 40' in height, with 12' ceilings on each floor. A bank is on the 1st floor, offices on the 2nd floor, with a hall on the 3rd floor. The rear room of the bank building, facing Monroe St, is a barber shop (Samuel H. McCracken). 103 S Jefferson is 35' in height and used for a millinery shop. The two-story building to the rear/west of both buildings remains, with an entry/stairs section to the second story and then two store spaces to the rear/west. The previous Opera House on the 2nd floor of the building is not shown. It appears this space is now used by I.O.O.F. (International Order of Odd Fellows). The W Monroe Street addresses from west to east are 210, 210-A and 210-B W Monroe. 210 is used for agricultural implements. 210-A is now a marble cutter workshop. 210-B appears to be the address of the barber shop in the rear of the bank building. The second story entry/stairs are between A and B.

The 1909 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for this building as previous maps. There is now an exterior iron stairway on the north wall of the building. The S Jefferson Street addresses continue to be 101 and 103. 101 S Jefferson is 42' in height with 12' ceilings on each floor. The 1st floor is a bank, the 2nd floor is the telephone exchange, and the west/rear room is a barber shop, with an address of 210-B W Monroe. 103 S Jefferson is a millinery shop, 34' in height, with 12' ceilings on each floor. The two-story building to the rear of both buildings is shown as 35' in height, with 12' ceilings on

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each floor. There is an open doorway at the rear of 103 S. Jefferson, leading into a store room for the millinery shop in the east portion of the rear building, with an address of 210-C W Monroe. The stairs to the second story from Monroe also remain located in this space. The two store spaces to the rear/west, 210 and 210-A W Monroe, are shown as a double-wide storefront offering produce.

On July 7, 1911, Alice L. Saunders sold the 103 S. Jefferson building (S 20' of the N 44' of the E 79' of lot 5) to John C. Bowman. On August 21, 1913, J.C. Bowman and wife sold the property to S.W. Garvin (Transfer Book "C", page 10).

On March 1, 1920, the African American barber Samuel H. McCracken moved his barber shop from the rear room of the First National Bank building to part of the former Presley Saunders house at 224 W. Washington St. He had started a barber shop in 1867 in the rear room of First National Bank, where he remained for 18 years. He then moved to the basement of the Corkhill (post office) building at 123 W. Monroe St, where he remained for 10 years. He then moved to the first story of the building and then back to the rear room of the bank building. He had been there for the last 24 years. His son Sam McCracken was also a barber with his father. The business of the bank required expansion into the space, obligating him to move his barber shop again. He was 78 years old and anticipated remaining a barber for at least 22 more years ("Dean of Local Barbers," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, March 2, 1920, 3). S.H. McCracken continued to operate his shop until suffering from a stroke in 1923 ("Samuel H. McCracken Passes Away," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 6, 1925, 1). His barber shop was continued by his son Sam McCracken, who operated it around the corner at 207 S. Jackson for several years ("Sam McCracken Taken By Death," *Mt Pleasant News*, August 20, 1966, 1).

The 1920 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for this building as the previous maps. The S Jefferson Street addresses continue to be 101 and 103. 101 S Jefferson is a bank, with a Hall on the 3rd floor. The bank has expanded into the rear room previously noted as the barber shop, with the dividing wall removed. 103 S Jefferson is now a dry goods and grocery store, with the same open doorway at the rear of the 2nd floor, leading to a room which extends to the north towards W Monroe, and at the rear of 101 S Jefferson. 210 and 210-A W Monroe are now separate storefronts: 210 W Monroe offers eggs and cream (with an elevator shown?) and 210-A W Monroe is now a hardware store.

The farm economy of the early 1920s perhaps led to the decision for the National State Bank to merge into the First National Bank in January 1922. These two banks were the oldest in Mt Pleasant, both dating back to the 1850s and 1860s. National State Bank was noted to be entirely solvent, though the surplus paid out to stockholders had declined from \$200,000 in 1918 to \$85,000 in 1921. The merger was not a surprise to business or farming interests, considered a sensible and logical business move. First National Bank took over the assets, notes, books, and records on January 20, 1922, placing it in a dominating position among financial institutions in southeast Iowa with deposits well over \$1 million. J.A. Lauger was president, and E.E. Phelps was cashier of First National Bank at the time ("Two Big Banks Merge," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, January 20, 1922, 3; "Henry County Savings Bank Linked with First Mt. Pleasant Bank," *Mt Pleasant News*, November 13, 1961, 24).

On September 1, 1922, S.W. Garvin and wife, sell the property at 103 S. Jefferson St (S 20' of the N 44' of the E 79' of lot 5) to the First National Bank of Mt. Pleasant for \$7,750 (Transfer Book "1", page 6).

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C.S. Rogers wrote in the "The Bystander's Notes" on January 24, 1923: "We have been peering into the future as to what may be expected this year in the way of public improvements, but see little of anything larger than a man's hand. The only thing definite in sight will be the new First National Bank building, which will be erected on the present site, but taking in the property on the south, recently secured from S.W. Garvin. It is understood that the enterprise will cost \$100,000.00 and will be a fine addition to the town" ("The Bystander's Notes," *Mt. Pleasant Daily News*, January 24, 1923, 3).

With the oldest bank building on the square, First National Bank then undertook construction of a new building at their corner at the north end of the west side in 1923, with the bank occupying the former National State Bank during the construction. The old bank was demolished, along with the commercial building to the south, with a larger bank building constructed on the site. The Classical Revival bank building was designed by architect Paul V. Hyland of Chicago, with a symmetrical façade on Jefferson St, flanking fluted columns, pilasters on the second story, and a parapet roofline. The Bedford stone building was one-story with a mezzanine, with all banking offices on the first story. The contract was awarded to Stiles Construction Company of Chicago in February 1923 (Naumann 1991: E21; "Bank Contract Signed," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, February 22, 1923, 1).

BANK CONTRACT SIGNED - WORK ON NEW FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING TO START WITHIN 30 DAYS. Contract Awarded to Stiles Construction Company of Chicago - To Be Built of Bedford Stone.

"At a meeting held Wednesday of the officials of the First National Bank, the Stiles Construction Company of Chicago and Mr. Hyland of Chicago, the architect, the formal contract for the erection of the new First National Bank Building, which will be erected at once on the site of the present building, was signed. It is expected that work of razing the present building, and the one now occupied by the Brody department store, recently purchased by the bank, will be commenced within thirty days. It is understood that the First National will occupy the old National State building during the course of construction of their new home. The building will be constructed of Bedford stone and will be one story, there being no offices in the building, except those occupied by the bank, which will all be on one floor. The building will be 44 by 79 feet. The interior will be of the very latest in bank construction, one of the features being a mezzanine floor at the rear of the building. The cost of the building is estimated at one hundred thousand dollars and when completes will be the finest banking house in southeastern Iowa. It is expected that the building will be completed about September 1st." (*Mt. Pleasant Daily News*, February 22, 1923, page 1)

An article in the *Mt. Pleasant Daily News*, March 9, 1923, page 1, announces: "The First National Bank building will be abandoned to the contractors about the middle of this month...the contractor will begin wrecking the old building".

On August 29, 1923, the First National Bank received the steel door (which weighed eight tons) for the great vault...bank officials expect to get into the new building about the first of November. (*Mt. Pleasant Daily News*, August 29, 1923, 1)

Grand opening in the new bank building was held on Wednesday December 12, 1923. The newspaper praised the harmonious architecture and decorations, as well as the oversight of cashier E.E. Phelps for the construction. Officers at this time included: John A. Lauger, president; W.B. Seeley, vice president; E.E. Phelps, cashier, and directors J.A. Lauger, R.B. Fouche, John Fitzpatrick, W.M. Kitch, H.R. McCabe,

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W.B. Seeley, A.W. Miller, Z.S. Ratcliff, and W.S. Withrow ("Bank Now Open," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, December 13, 1923, 1). First National Bank is listed here in telephone directories through the late 1920s.

With the stock market crash in 1929, farm prices began to plummet again, affecting the economy of Mt Pleasant that was linked to the agricultural base of the county. Increased supply of crops nationwide continued to flood the market, reducing prices. As farmers were unable to make mortgage payments, banks were forced to foreclose on properties. Banks were also directly affected, with many closing across the country over the next few years. On November 25, 1930, the Henry County Savings Bank took over the assets of the First National Bank. The *Mt Pleasant News* noted that the consolidation of Henry County Savings Bank, founded by George H. Spahr, and the First National Bank, founded by Presley Saunders, had been approved by the state banking commission, which promoted consolidations to create stronger and safer banks. Henry County Savings Bank had increased its surplus over the last few years despite the Depression due to its careful and conservative policies. With the move, Henry County Savings Bank became one of the strongest banks in any agricultural county in the state with total deposits of \$2 million. Henry County Savings Bank moved from its location in its 1891 bank building at the northeast corner of the square at 100 S. Main St (north end of east side) to the newer 1923 bank building of First National Bank at the northwest corner of the square (north end of west side) immediately in November 1930 ("A Two Million Dollar Bank," *Mt Pleasant News*, November 25, 1930, 1; "\$2,000,000 Bank at Mt. Pleasant," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, November 26, 1930; "Henry County Savings Bank Linked with First Mt. Pleasant Bank," *Mt Pleasant News*, November 13, 1961, 24; MPS 1985: 56). Thus, Henry County Savings Bank became linked to the history of the oldest bank in Mt Pleasant. W.S. Withrow served as president from 1922 to 1930, followed by Will Kitch in 1931 to 1933 ("Henry County Savings Bank marks 100 years," *Mt Pleasant News*, February 21, 1991, 5).

On April 11, 1932, the First National Bank of Mt. Pleasant transferred its new building at 101 S. Jefferson St (N 44' of the E 79' of lot 5) to Henry County Savings Bank. On November 25, 1932, it appears the title to Henry County Savings Bank was cleared up (Transfer Book "1", page 7).

After President Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933, he immediately took action regarding the national banking crisis and to create a "New Deal" for the country to counter the Depression. A four-day bank holiday was declared on March 6, permitting the federal government time to inspect all banks to determine banks that were solvent or banks that should be closed (Jaynes 1977: 127). Henry County Savings Bank remain open, though they struggled in the early 1930s during the Depression, with the state superintendent of banking managing the bank from 1932 until 1934 when it was returned to local management. A new president, John P. Budde, was elected in 1934, remaining in this position until the new bank was completed in 1975. By 1935, the assets of the bank exceeded \$1 million and never fell lower than that figure again ("Henry County Savings Bank marks 100 years," *Mt Pleasant News*, February 21, 1991, 5). It was one of three banks in the county remaining in operation in 1934, along with Wayland Savings Bank and Winfield Bank (HCBC 1982: 20). The 1938 city directory lists Henry County Savings Bank at 101 S. Jefferson St. It is the only bank in Mt Pleasant.

The 1942 Sanborn fire insurance map shows a brick, stone-faced building at the corner of W Monroe and S Jefferson. The building is 24' in height, with steel girders. The address is 101 – 103 S Jefferson, and the building is used for a bank. The 35' tall, 2-story, brick building to the rear/west facing W Monroe St is shown as a separate building, with a small separation between it and the new corner building. The

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addresses for the three stores facing W Monroe in this rear building are: 210 (egg and cream store), 210-A (store), and 210-C (store).

In July 1946, announcement was made of a new bank in Mt Pleasant to be known as Mt. Pleasant Bank and Trust Company. Henry County Savings Bank, dating back to 1891, had operated as the only bank in town since the closure of the State Trust and Savings Bank in 1933. The building on the east side of the square at 102 S. Main St, owned by Hoaglin family interests, was remodeled for the new bank starting in fall 1946 and completed in early 1947. In 1948, Henry County Savings Bank completed a remodel of their building, with limited work on the exterior of this newer building. The interior of the bank was modernized and remodeled to provide additional space for bank operations and customer service ("Henry County Savings Bank Linked with First Mt. Pleasant Bank," *Mt Pleasant News*, November 13, 1961, 24; "Henry County Savings Bank marks 100 years," *Mt Pleasant News*, February 21, 1991, 5). The glass block visible in the upper windows of the building in the 1950s may have been installed at this time. Henry County Savings Bank was then listed in telephone and city directories at 101 S. Jefferson St through the 1950s and 1960s.

The building to the west at 210 W. Monroe St was purchased by the Moose Lodge, known from the late 1940s to 1970s as the Moose building. In March 1948, Moose Lodge No. 1003 held formal initiation of 50 men at the Country Club, with plans being made to remodel the Moose building west of the Henry County Savings Bank starting next week ("Moose Lodge Initiates Fifty," *Mt Pleasant News*, March 31, 1948, 1). In August 1948, H.L. Sunderlin moved Sunderlin Printing Co from the Temple building on Main St to the location on W. Monroe St formerly occupied by the Yorkshire cream station in west room of the Moose Building at 210 W. Monroe St across from the *News* ("Sunderlin to Move Printing Plant," *Mt Pleasant News*, August 31, 1948, 6; *Mt Pleasant News*, September 15, 1948, 8). Remodeling of the building included reduction of the large arch windows to smaller rectangular windows.

An increasing number of banks were offering drive-in banking in the 1960s, which was a challenge to banks located in historic buildings on traditional downtown lots. Two banks continued to operate in Mt Pleasant in this period: Henry County Savings Bank (since 1891) and Mt Pleasant Bank & Trust (since 1947). In February 1965, Mt Pleasant Bank & Trust announced plans to remodel the bank and open a drive-in window at the rear of their building at 102 S. Main St. The remodeling was completed in late 1965 ("Mt. P. Bank and Trust to Remodel; Add Drive-In," *Mt Pleasant News*, February 26, 1965, 1). In March 1965, J.P. Budde, president of the Henry County Savings Bank, announced that they would purchase property two blocks to the east of the square on S. Harrison St, with the intention to construct a drive-in bank on this lot. In July 1965, the bank bought the four parcels on the east side of S. Harrison St, acquiring the half block and demolishing the four houses. Construction of the drive-in facility was noted as underway by the end of 1965, with an open house held at the new drive-in facility on October 13, 1966 ("Year of Growth and Many Changes in Mount Pleasant," *Mt Pleasant News*, December 31, 1965, 1 "Open House Oct. 13 at Bank's Drive-In," *Mt Pleasant News*, October 11, 1966, 1; Jaynes 1977: 162). The drive-in facility supplemented their main location on the square.

In 1972, Henry County Savings Bank purchased the Moose building to the west of their bank, with the Moose Lodge constructing a new building on the west edge of town. The property was acquired for future expansion of the main bank. The annual meeting in January 1973 re-elected J.P. Budde as chairman of the Board of Directors and president of Henry County Savings Bank. The bank had enjoyed an excellent year in 1972. They anticipated taking over an ever expanding part in the growth and progress of Mt

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Pleasant and Henry County. Deposits increased to over two million dollars during the year (“Budde reelected bank president,” *Mt Pleasant News*, January 11, 1973, 1). Demolition proceeded in January on the Moose building on W. Monroe St to the rear of the bank by the Donald Whaley Construction company (*Mt Pleasant News*, January 16, 1973, 1). Parking spaces were added on a portion of this site to the rear of the building.

Henry County Savings Bank retained the bank building at 101 S. Jefferson St as the main location of the bank through 1975. John P. Budde, president of the bank since 1934, announced plans in August 1973 to construct a new main bank building on the site of their drive-in facility at E. Washington St and S. Harrison St. The present bank on northwest corner of square would continue as an office after the new main bank was completed, serving merchants and shopping customers. Henry County Savings Bank had a need for expansion due to continued growth of the bank and the extensive development of Mt Pleasant and Henry County. He continued: “The decision to build on the present site of the drive-in office, as well as maintaining the office on the square, expresses the bank’s feeling of confidence in the downtown Mt Pleasant business area.” The ample site on the east edge of the central business district would provide plentiful free parking for customers. Construction was anticipated to proceed in 1974, with final approval from the Iowa State Superintendent of Banking and the FDIC. The separate drive-in facility would be sold, once the new bank was completed on the site (“Henry County Bank plans new building,” *Mt Pleasant News*, August 21, 1973, 1). Construction of the new Henry County Savings Bank at 301 E. Washington St was cited as one of the major construction projects in Mt Pleasant in 1975. The new main bank opened on July 14, 1975, for all banking services. In addition to complete and convenient banking, they offered free parking. The “Uptown Bank” would continue to operate at the northwest corner of the square, with the “New Main Bank” at 301 E. Washington. The new bank had service inside the building, walk-up windows, and drive-in services (“Local construction book in ’75,” *Mt Pleasant News*, December 27, 1975, 1; *Mt Pleasant News*, July 11, 1975, 6).

This “uptown” location of the Henry County Savings Bank at 101 S. Jefferson St is shown in city directories through the mid-1980s. The 1991 article on the 100th anniversary of the bank notes that many services are still provided at that location (“Henry County Savings Bank marks 100 years,” *Mt Pleasant News*, February 21, 1991, 5). In June 1991, the name of Henry County Savings Bank was changed to Firststar Bank Mount Pleasant. The Firststar Bank in Mt Pleasant remained locally managed, with the added resources of the Firststar Corporation, which was one of the nation’s strongest bank holding companies. Firststar Bank advertised their main bank at 301 E. Washington, with the uptown office at 101 S. Jefferson St (*Mt Pleasant News*, June 3, 1991, 5). On September 12, 1994, Firststar Bank Mt Pleasant’s uptown office and staff relocated to the main bank at 301 E. Washington St. The move was noted to enhance service to Firststar customers by providing teller services, deposit account opening, loans, trust services, and safe deposit boxes all under one roof. The concentration of services in one location would provide expanded banking services and longer hours, as well as the convenience of drive-up and ATM facilities, per president Dean Hicks (“Firststar Bank consolidates operations,” *Mt Pleasant News*, June 13, 1994, 10).

By 1983, the Henry County Extension Service for Iowa State University had their offices in this building as well. The Henry County Extension Services were listed in the 1986 city directory in this building at 101 S. Jefferson St. They remained here into the early 2000s.

Le Chic Boutique and The Style Vault and Soul Expressions were located here in 2007.

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The building has been owned since December 2010, by Jason J. Denning, who purchased it from Donald J. and Rita Davis. This commercial building at 101 S Jefferson is currently occupied in 2023 by Le Chic Boutique, a retail clothing store, and Revive, a retail shop offering healthy teas, shakes and more.

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Location map



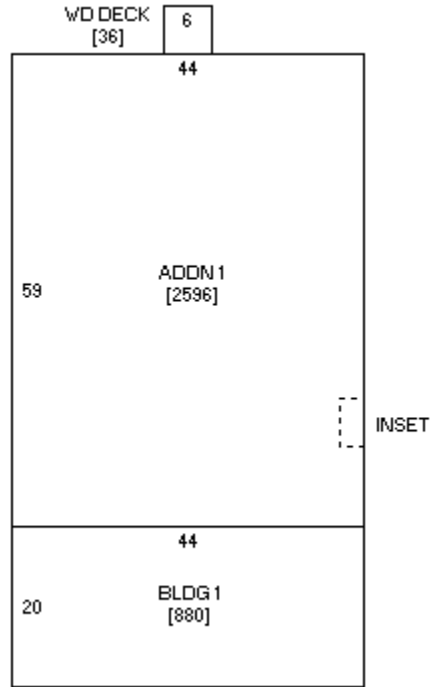
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Building footprint



Sketch by www.camavision.com

Henry County Assessor (<https://beacon.schneidercorp.com>)

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Historic images



Earlier bank building on corner (101 S. Jefferson St) in 1890s (HCHS files, library)



Earlier bank building on corner (101 S. Jefferson St) prior to demolition (HCHT Facebook album)
Saunders Hall visible to rear of bank

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Earlier bank building on corner (101 S. Jefferson St) and Saunders Hall to rear/west of building (HCHT Facebook album)

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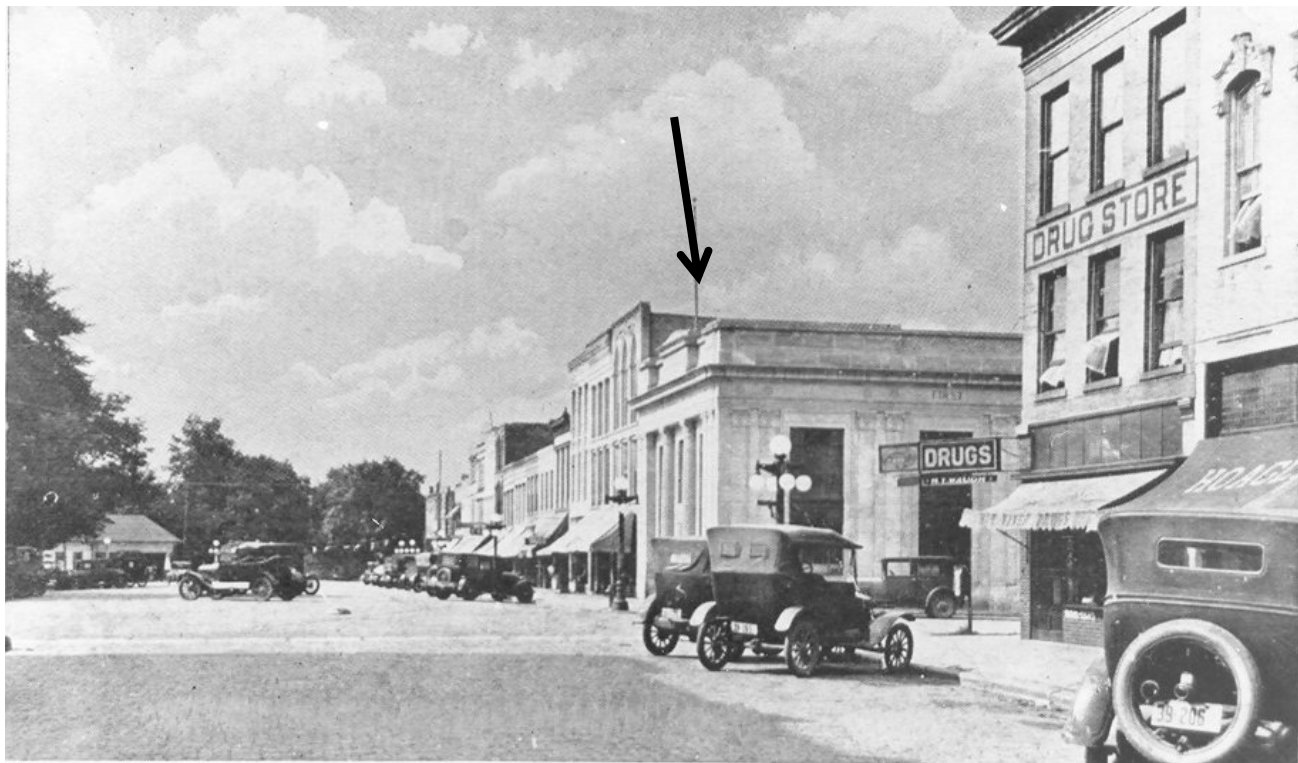
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Jefferson Street, Mt. Pleasant, Ia.

West side of Jefferson St in 1920s (HCHT Facebook album)

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West side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) in 1940s (HCHT Facebook album)
original small glass upper windows visible

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Side of bank building with glass block in windows in 1955

Moose building to west/rear/right of bank with windows remodeled

(HCHT Facebook album)

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South side of 200 block of W. Monroe St in July 1965, looking northeast (HCHT collection)

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North end of west side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) in late 1960s or early 1970s
(HCHT Facebook album)

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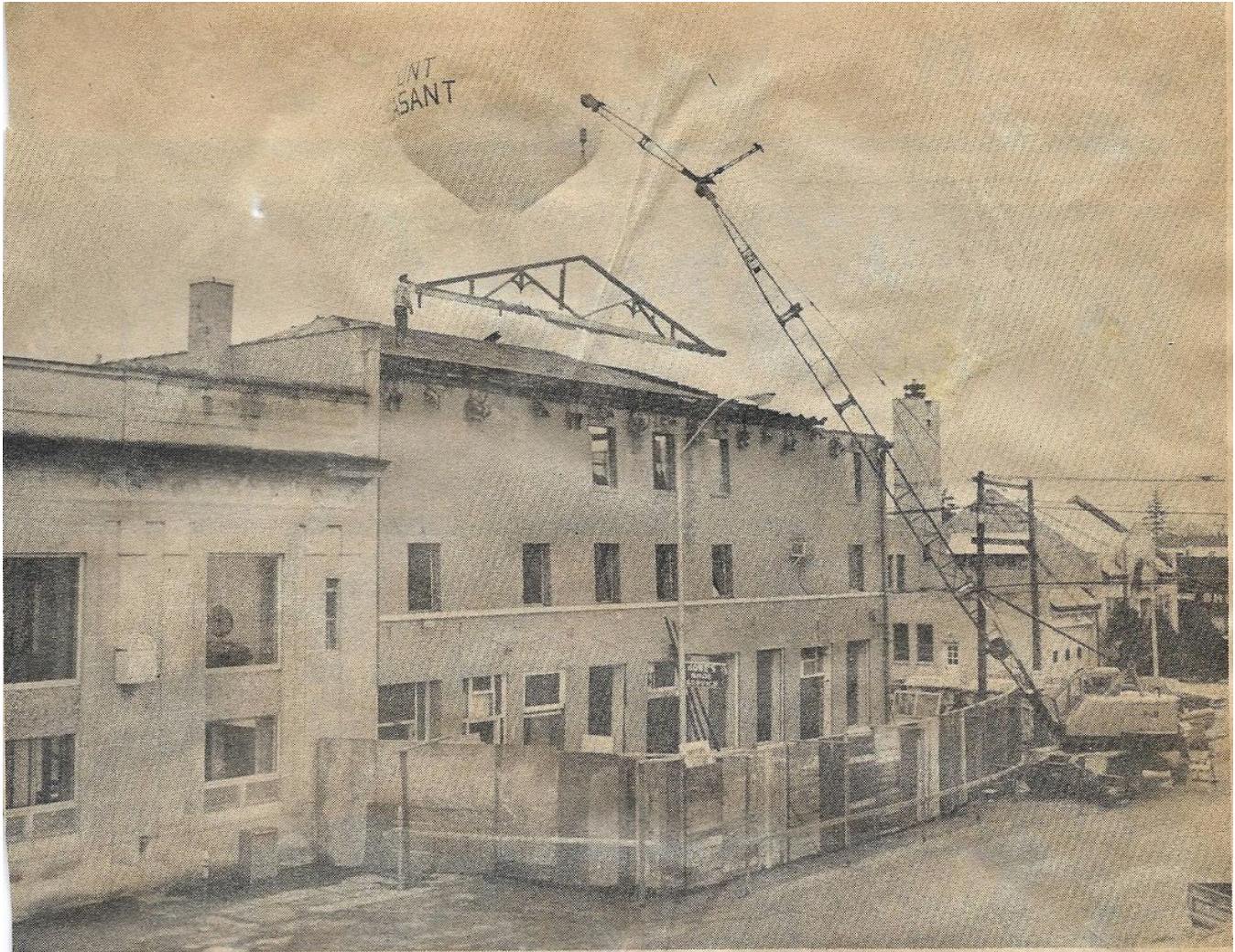
County

101 S. Jefferson St

Mount Pleasant

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City



Work proceeded this week on the demolition of the former Moose building on West Monroe. Crews working for Donald Whaley Construction company began removing roof trestles Monday with a mobile crane, while workers began

dismantling the brick walls. The building was recently purchased by the Henry County Savings Bank (partially shown at left). The picture was taken from atop a building across the street.

**Demolition of Moose Building (originally Saunders Hall) to rear/west of bank in January 1973
(Mt Pleasant News, January 16, 1973, 1, HCHT clippings)**

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1990 survey photographs (Naumann 1991)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 44-00203-001. East elevation, looking west (October 2023)

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Photograph 44-00203-002. North elevation, looking south (October 2023)

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Photograph 44-00203-003. West elevation, looking east (October 2023)