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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Farmers State Bank

Other names/site number PP05-004

Name of related multiple property listing NA

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

2. Location

Street & Number 307 Commercial Street

City or town Loomis State Nebraska County Phelps

Not for publication [] Vicinity []

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 at the following level(s) of significance: [] national [] statewide [X] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [X] A [] B [X] C [] D

Michael J. Fox SHPO/Director 10-24-2013

Signature of certifying official/Title: Date

Nebraska State Historical Society

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official Date

Title State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[✓] entered in the National Register.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain):

Signature of Keeper 12/31/2013

Date of Action

Farmers State Bank
Name of Property

Phelps County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

[X] Private
[] Public-local
[] Public-state
[] Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box)

[X] Building(s)
[] District
[] Site
[] Structure
[] Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Neo-Classical

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Farmers State Bank building is a modest, one-part commercial block. It was built in 1915 and features a simple, brick, Neo-Classical façade with stone trim. The interior and exterior are exceptionally well preserved. The banking room includes original tile floor, pressed metal ceiling, curved tellers' service counter, and woodwork. The immediate environs on the west side of Commercial Street consist of period, one-story brick buildings.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.**)**

On November 21, 1914, Loomis experienced a major fire, which destroyed eleven businesses, including the Farmers State Bank. The loss of the bank building was estimated at $2,500. However, the contents of the vault were undamaged and the bank continued to operate in a temporary location.[1] In March of the next year the brick bank was under construction on the site of the former building. The newspaper reported that it was to be 24 feet by 70 feet with one story and a brick basement.[2] In May, the foundation had been laid and by July, work began on the interior. The move to the new building (the subject of this nomination) was completed and business operations resumed on September 15, 1915.[3]

Exterior

The main (east) façade of the bank is finished in face brick, while the side and rear walls are of common brick. The south facade supports a brick stove flue, which is cantilevered from the wall. The rear of the building has two windows and an exit door. The building abuts a one-story brick commercial building on the north. The building sits on a full brick basement.

The facade projects one brick from the main part of the wall allowing the decorative features of the base and cornice to be confined to the front wall plane. Likewise, the entrance pavilion projects slightly from the rest of the façade and features a simple molded stone frontispiece that defines the door. A simple paneled brick frieze is framed with a stone architrave below and an articulated stone wall cornice above. The brick parapet wall also has stone coping. A Chicago-style storefront window includes a single "picture" window flanked by two smaller double-hung windows. The whole is topped by transom lights featuring Neo-Classical cross muntins, a motif which is repeated in the transom above the door. A simple three-part stone base and water table completes the composition.

Interior

The front door enters into a vestibule and the main banking room, which is remarkably well-preserved with original trim and hardware, woodwork, marble baseboards, operable transom windows, and mosaic tile floor. The banking room includes an original wall-mounted customers' writing desk and a curved tellers' service counter. The service counter is divided from the entrance to an office by a panel of hammered glass and simulated bronze bars. The counter and writing desk are marked "H. Ehrlich & Sons Manufacturing Co., St. Joseph, Missouri" who were designers and manufacturers of showcases and store fixtures. The banking room features a 12-foot high ceiling covered with pressed tin in a coffered configuration. There are two walk-in

[1] *Loomis Sentinel*, November 27, 1914.
[2] *Loomis Sentinel*, March 5, 1915.
[3] *Loomis Sentinel*, September 17, 1915.

vaults. An office is entered from behind the tellers' service counter. A rear room provides access to the basement and a rear entry door, which exits to the back of the building.

Environs

The bank is located on the west side of Commercial Street in the "main street" business district of Loomis. The block where the building is located is composed of simple, one-story brick buildings. These were built after a devastating fire in 1914, which destroyed the west side of this block. Destroyed were two general merchandise stores, barber shop, jewelry store, restaurant, and meat market, in addition to the first bank building.[4] Commercial buildings were rebuilt in brick, replacing frame buildings that had been destroyed. To the immediate south of the building is an open lot, which is maintained and landscaped as a small park.

Integrity

The building has exceptional integrity, with necessary upgrades in electrical work and restroom in progress. A newer aluminum entrance door is the only major alteration.

Postscript

Carl W. Thorell purchased the building after the bank closed. He operated his insurance and real estate agency in the building. For a time the building served as the Loomis post office.[5] The current owners will maintain the building as an office.

[4] *Loomis Sentinel*, November 27, 1914

[5] *Loomis, Nebraska, 1886-1986*, *Centennial History*, page 234.

Farmers State Bank
Name of Property

Phelps County, Nebraska
County and 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.)

X **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.

X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

__ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

__ **A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

__ **B** Removed from its original location.

__ **C** A birthplace or a grave.

__ **D** A cemetery.

__ **E** A reconstructed building, object, or structure.

__ **F** A commemorative property.

__ **G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1915-1929

Significant Dates
1915, 1929

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Farmers State Bank is significant under Criterion A at the local level. It represents importance not necessarily for contributions to the local commerce and economy of the small town of Loomis and its trade area during its operations from 1900-1929, but as a significant and well-documented representative of a pattern of events relating to the Nebraska banking system. Under Criterion C, the building is significant at the local level as an excellent example of the small Nebraska bank buildings of the early twentieth-century property type, for its Neo-Classical design, and for its exceptionally well preserved interior.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

CRITERION A

The Farmers State Bank in Loomis crossed two general periods of Nebraska banking. The first saw the emergence of national and state banks operating under separate systems of bank chartering and regulation. This period also witnessed phenomenal growth in the number of Nebraska state banks. The second period was one of extreme distress in the state's banking system.

Nebraska Banks Come of Age (1889-1920)[6]

This period saw a "dual system" of bank chartering and regulation. Under this system, the more highly regulated "national banks" operated side-by-side with Nebraska "state banks," which were incorporated and chartered under state law.

The financial depression of the 1890s was exacerbated by drought and low prices for agricultural communities, contributing to substantial economic distress in the state. The depression brought about extreme concerns for the banking industry. Between 1892 and 1896 deposits in Nebraska banks decreased nearly 50% from $53.7 million to $27.3 million.[7] In Nebraska, 36 banks failed in 1896 holding over a million dollars of deposits.[8]

Nebraska enacted the state's first general law in 1889 for the purpose of incorporating banks. The state law was broadened in 1895, placing the numerous state-incorporated banks on a sounder basis. This law stipulated minimal capital and reserve requirements and required the regular examination of banks. The 1895 law also created a state banking board with powers to supervise and issue bank charters.

With the era of depression, Nebraska's state banks agitated for a fund that would guarantee bank deposits. In 1897 a bill was introduced in the legislature to enact a yearly tax on the daily deposits of state banks, which would be placed in a fund for depositors of banks that became insolvent. The purpose was to prevent runs on banks by depositors demanding their money, which contributed to bank failures. The legislation failed.

Highlighting the need, however, was the Panic of 1907, which strained the national economy. In 1908 there were 615 Nebraska state banks in operation and the panic focused attention again on the issue of guaranteeing

[6] Based on a historic context report by L.Robert Puschendorf, 1989. Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office. Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory files, (15.05.03).
[7] Olson, James C. and Ronald C. Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997, page 250.
[8] Historic context report, L.Robert Puschendorf, 1989. Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office. Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory files (15.05.03).

deposits.[9] Passage of a guarantee law was finally successful in 1909. Having been sustained by the United States Supreme Court (Shallenberger vs. First State Bank of Holstein), beginning in 1911 assessments upon state banks created the "Depositors Guaranty Fund" from which depositors in a failed state bank would be covered.

The period of 1915 to 1920 saw prosperity in business, industry, finance, and agriculture due, in part, to events surrounding World War I. The economy of Nebraska agriculture boomed. Land and commodity prices soared. With it came a massive number of new banks. One banker later recalled, "By 1915 the flood of charters for new State banks had set in..."[10] Another observer referred to "the mushrooming characteristics of a large number of banks entering the system…"[11] By 1920 the number of Nebraska state banks had increased to 1,013 banks in operation. In 1917 alone, 101 new banks were opened, and during 1918, 102 more were chartered. By comparison, there were only 200 highly-regulated national banks in the state in 1920. It was calculated that there was one bank for every 1,000 in population.[12] However, between July 1, 1913 and June 30, 1920, there were only 5 state bank failures.[13] The Guaranty Fund took care of the depositors and confidence in the soundness of Nebraska banks continued to be strong. One report reflected that "(t)he fund brought prosperity and strength to the state banks."[14]

The Nebraska Banking System is Challenged (1920-1929)[15]

But for agriculture, the decade of the 1920s would be that of distress. The agricultural prosperity created by World War I took a sudden downturn in 1921. Farmers had invested in land and equipment and took out credit on high-priced commodities. However, farm commodity prices now dropped more than 50%.[16] When demand for commodities fell, farmers were pressed to meet payments on mortgages and loans by marketing crops at declining prices. Thousands of farmers found themselves selling their crops and livestock, but still in debt. Banks that had assets tied up in real estate mortgages, commercial loans, and commodity loans were unable to collect. The flood of bank failures began in the year ending June 30, 1921 with 16 banks that closed. One banker later recalled, "…now the bank failures were beginning to explode with dismaying frequency…."[17] Another observer also took aim at unscrupulous bank officers who "recklessly contract debts for their own emolument."[18] And yet another report stated that:

> …(s)ince the World War economic causes general in scope and character destroyed agricultural and commercial credit and made bankruptcy widespread throughout the middle west with consequent disaster to the banks of Nebraska and to states surrounding her.[19]

The Nebraska Guaranty Fund Commission was created in 1923 and was allowed to operate a number of troubled banks that would otherwise have closed.

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[9] *Final Report of the Banking Investigation Authorized by House Roll No 585, A.C. Shallenberger, Chief Examiner*, 1930.
[10] Hughes, W.B., *Forty Years with Nebraska Bankers*, Nebraska Bankers Association, 1945, page 170.
[11] Watson, B. Frank, *A History of Nebraska Bank Guaranty Law. Lincoln (Nebraska) Veterans Weekly*, 1937.
[12] Watson, B. Frank, *A History of Nebraska Bank Guaranty Law. Lincoln (Nebraska) Veterans Weekly*, 1937.
[13] *Final Report of the Banking Investigation Authorized by House Roll No 585, A.C. Shallenberger, Chief Examiner*, 1930.
[14] *Final Report of the Banking Investigation authorized by House Roll No 585, A.C. Shallenberger, Chief Examiner*, 1930.
[15] Based on a historic context report by L. Robert Puschendorf, 1989. Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office. Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory files (15.05.03).
[16] Luebke, Frederick C., *Nebraska: An Illustrated History*, Lincoln and London: The University of Nebraska Press, 1995, page 259.
[17] Hughes, W.B., *Forty Years with Nebraska Bankers*, Nebraska Bankers Association, 1945, page 123.
[18] Watson, B. Frank, *A History of Nebraska Bank Guaranty Law. Lincoln (Nebraska) Veterans Weekly*, 1937.
[19] *Final Report of the Banking Investigation Authorized by House Roll No 585, A.C. Shallenberger, Chief Examiner*, 1930.

Other issues were cited.

> The courts decreed that...the State Banking Department could not refuse charters. The decision denied to the state's officers a power essential to the safety of banking and the security and efficiency of the Bank Guaranty Fund. The Legislature later passed a law giving authority to the Banking Department to refuse charters for good cause, requiring officers in management of banks to secure a license from the Banking Department certifying the banker's ability and character. This law was suspended by referendum petition and later was defeated by a vote of the people. Subsequently, hundreds of banks were chartered for which there was no economic use and men permitted to operate them who, for want of ability and honesty, have disgraced the business of banking. Too many banks and too few bankers bred bankruptcy in the banking business.[20]

From July 1, 1921 to June 30, 1928 there were 248 bank failures, an average of 35 banks a year. The worst year was from July 1, 1927 to June 30, 1928 with 62 failed banks.[21] The number of banks in distress created conditions that strained the system and by 1927, many became apprehensive of the solvency and future of the Guaranty Fund. The Nebraska Bankers Association had seen the situation coming. They sent a letter to their members dated January 17, 1929. It read in part:

> For years the Nebraska Bankers Association has annually adopted resolutions reaffirming its confidence in, and its loyalty to, the Guarantee Fund…Early in 1928 it became known to all well informed bankers that the unpaid liability of the Guarantee Fund had become unmanageably large and was steadily increasing… It was obvious to (the Nebraska Bankers Association's legislative committee) long ago that the 1929 Legislature would have to face the collapse, or at least the failure to function, of the Guarantee Fund law.[22]

An adverse U.S. Supreme Court decision (Abie State Bank vs. Weaver) and legislative action abolished deposit guarantee on May 1, 1929.

Postscript

The Guaranty Fund had been successful in creating confidence by depositors. But when depositors became leery of the solvency of banks they withdrew their funds. From May 1, 1929 to July 1, 1930, 83 state banks were closed. By then, 602 state banks reported to the Nebraska Department of Banking.[23] The collapse of the stock market in October 1929 would introduce the nation's Great Depression of the 1930s, made worse in Nebraska by drought and fallen commodity prices. Under the "New Deal," actions were taken to assist in the national banking system. President Roosevelt called for a "Bank Holiday" after a month-long run on American banks. Beginning March 6, 1933, he declared that all banks in the country would be temporarily closed to forestall the crisis of bank closures. Also in 1933, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was established to secure confidence in bank deposits and to supervise and operate banks in case of potential insolvency. New Deal programs dealt with stabilizing the economy and the agricultural sector. In March 1936 the state banking department announced that it had completed the first twelve-month period since 1919 without a bank failure.[24]

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[20] *Final Report of the Banking Investigation Authorized by House Roll No 585, A.C. Shallenberger, Chief Examiner*, 1930.
[21] Hughes, W.B., *Forty Years with Nebraska Bankers*, Nebraska Bankers Association, 1945, page 188.
[22] Hughes, W.B., *Forty Years with Nebraska Bankers*, Nebraska Bankers Association, 1945, page 181.
[23] *Final Report of the Banking Investigation Authorized by House Roll No 585, A.C. Shallenberger, Chief Examiner*, 1930.
[24] Historic context report, L. Robert Puschendorf, 1989. Nebraska State Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office. Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory files (15.05.04).

Farmers State Bank

The area around what would become the village of Loomis attracted a group of Swedish immigrants who settled in the area from about 1876 to 1880. Loomis began as a railroad siding on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad between Holdrege and Bertrand.[25] A town site company organized the village in 1885, named in honor of N.H. Loomis, a lawyer for the railroad. The following year a post office was established. That year, the village's first bank was organized as the Loomis State Bank with a capital of $15,000. It was reorganized as the First National Bank in 1900 with capital of $25,000 and surplus and profits of $3,500.[26]

The Farmers State Bank was incorporated in January 1900 by the Nebraska Department of Banking, chartered as a state bank with $5,000 in capital stock subscribed.[27] Loomis now had a population of 300 and two banks. J.E. Forsythe served as president and W.A. Forsythe as cashier.[28] Brothers Albert E. Johnson and Andrew G. Johnson purchased the bank in 1905. They were sons of Swedish immigrants who moved to Nebraska with their parents in 1880, locating in Phelps County. Albert became president of the bank and Andrew, cashier.[29] In 1907 the paid capital stock of the bank was increased to $10,000. [30] By 1909 deposits in Loomis's two banks had risen to over $250,000.[31] By 1913 the Farmers' State Bank had capital of $15,000 and surplus of $16,000.[32] Like many Nebraska banks, the Farmers State Bank rose on the waves of prosperity. By 1920 its capital had increased to $25,000.[33]

The economic downturn in the 1920s, however, hit the bank. Just months after the Nebraska Guaranty Fund was abolished, the Farmers State Bank became a casualty. On December 12, 1929 the bank did not open its doors. A notice on the door stated that the bank was now in charge of the State Department of Trade and Commerce. The newspaper reported:

> It is generally believed that the bank's condition is not in bad shape. Heavy withdrawals (are) blamed for the closing. The present condition of the guarantee fund and numerous failures of state banks (have) caused customers to draw out their deposits from state banks.[34]

The bank's last report in September stated that it held $121,642.41 in deposits, and loans and discounts of $155,828.28.[35] It was reported in the local newspaper that $30,000.00 in capital and surplus would be necessary to reopen the bank.[36]

The bank was placed in receivership in February 1930. This put the bank's assets under the oversight of the State Department of Trade and Commerce and its Receivership Division. Nine months after closing its doors,

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[25] *Loomis, Nebraska, 1886-1986*, Loomis Centennial Book Committee, 1986.
[26] *Loomis, Nebraska, 1886-1986*, Loomis Centennial Book Committee, 1986.
[27] RG13, Banking and Finance, Nebraska State Historical Society archives, KS 13/07/04, Box #16 (#498).
[28] McAvoy's *Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1902-1903.* Omaha: Omaha Directory Company December 1901.
[29] McAvoy's *Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1902-1903.* Omaha: Omaha Directory Company, December 1901.
[30] RG13, Banking and Finance, Nebraska State Historical Society archives, KS 13/07/04, Box #16 (#498).
[31] *Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Western Nebraska. Chicago: Alden Publishing Company*, 1909.
[32] *Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory.* Omaha: Polk-McAvoy Directory Company, 1913.
[33] RG13, Banking and Finance, Nebraska State Historical Society archives, KS 13/07/04, Box #16 (#498).
[34] *Loomis Sentinel*, December 13, 1929.
[35] *Loomis Sentinel*, December 13, 1929.
[36] *Loomis Sentinel*, January 17, 1930.

the local newspaper noted that at the time the bank was turned over to the receiver its statements showed total resources of $168,274.53. Deposits totaled $81,908.78, loans and discounts were $105,822.91, and bills payable were about $30,000.00. [37] An audit was conducted concerning the liability of the stockholders. At the final meeting of the depositors in March of 1932, all transactions were placed in the hands of a depositors committee acting as a board of trustees. At the meeting, a representative of the State Banking Department commented that "the local depositors were fortunate in having such a fine, cooperative committee to represent them, which, with the aid of the receivers, has made it possible for the local bank to pay out above the average of failed banks in the state."[38] Payments made during receivership totaled $45,331.85 when the court authorized final payment in 1936.[39] A series of dividends were made to depositors. Based on the financial statements that are available, depositors finally received 55 cents on the dollar.

The Farmers State Bank represents importance not necessarily for contributions to the local commerce and economy of the small town of Loomis, nor for its trade area during its operations from 1900-1929. Rather, the rise and fall of the Farmers State Bank represents two significant periods of Nebraska banking during this timeframe. The first saw the emergence of national and state banks operating under separate systems of bank chartering and regulation and phenomenal growth in Nebraska's banking system. Contributing to this growth was the Nebraska Guaranty Fund. The second was one of extreme distress in the 1920s leading to the abolition of the Nebraska Guaranty Fund and the failure of the Farmers State Bank in 1929. The Farmers State Bank reflects this trend. It is therefore significant as a fine, well-documented representative of this pattern of events.

CRITERION C

Not only is this building representative of important time periods in Nebraska banking history, its well-preserved condition definitely reflects the architectural attitudes found in small-town Nebraska bank buildings during its period of construction.

As a property type, the small Nebraska bank buildings of the early twentieth-century were most often of brick structural construction, rectangularly-shaped in plan, one-story in height with flat roofs and parapet walls. They used high-quality materials and detailing in the use of face brick, terra cotta, or stone on their primary façade(s). Many occupied prominent corner lots in the commercial business area with detailed primary facades on both sides.

Prominent examples of this type are found in the state. Of those included in the National Register of Historic Places most contribute to historic commercial districts. Few, however, have been individually entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A sampling of fine examples identified in the Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory include those located in Abie (BU01-005), Berwyn (CU04-001), Mason City (CU11-005), Dannebrog (HW04-060), Crab Orchard (JO02-007), Beaver Crossing (SW01-009), Garland (SW04-001, listed NRHP), Hazard (SM02-011), Litchfield (SM03-014), Rockville (SM05-019), and Bethany, now a neighborhood in Lincoln (LC13-G11-198, listed NRHP). In the case of most, interior spaces have been severely compromised because banks may have ceased operations and the building converted to new uses, or they were altered by banks themselves as they tried to portray more modern attitudes. Only one other example having a fully preserved interior has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places to date, the former Security State Bank in Broken Bow, built in 1915 (CU05-66).

[37] *Loomis Sentinel*, September 25, 1930.
[38] *Loomis Sentinel*, March 31. 1932.
[39] RG13, Banking and Finance, Nebraska State Historical Society archives, KS 13/07/04, Box #16 (#498). Memo of April 23, 1936 to E.H. Luikart, receiver, State of Nebraska.

Bank buildings of this period tend to display Renaissance Revival and Neo-Classical styles of architecture. They are often among the most architecturally significant examples found in smaller communities and are most often key components to commercial business districts. These buildings were designed to be symbols of progress and permanence, like the institutions they held. Their design and materials reflect these qualities.

The Farmers State Bank building exemplifies its property type, being constructed of brick, rectangularly-shaped in plan, one-story in height with flat roof and parapet walls. The use of face brick and stone for the facade is notable, representing the Neo-Classical style and details.

The building reflects the progress and permanence that the bank must have preferred to portray when constructed. Furthermore, its architectural significance is enhanced by the well preserved state of its banking room, complete with original fixtures.

The Farmers State Bank building is Loomis' most architecturally significant commercial business building. Furthermore, it was the only building in the Loomis commercial district identified in a 1991 survey of Phelps County for the Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory. It is considered architecturally significant under Criterion C at the local level as an excellent example of its type. This significance is enhanced by an interior space that maintains a full degree of integrity.

Farmers State Bank — **Name of Property**

Phelps County, Nebraska — **County and State**

9. Major Bibliographic References

Newspapers:
Loomis (Nebraska) Sentinel

Published Histories:
Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Western Nebraska. Chicago: Alden Publishing Company, 1909.
Hughes, W.B., *Forty Years with Nebraska Bankers*, Nebraska Bankers Association, 1945.
Olson, James C. and Ronald C. Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997.
Watson, B. Frank, *A History of Nebraska Bank Guaranty Law. Lincoln (Nebraska) Veterans Weekly,* 1937.
Loomis, Nebraska, 1886-1986. Centennial History.

Other Publications:
McAvoy's *Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1902-1903.* Omaha: Omaha Directory Company, December 1901.
Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Omaha: Polk-McAvoy Directory Company, 1913.

Archival Sources:
RG13, Banking and Finance, Nebraska State Historical Society archives, KS 13/07/04,Box #16(#498).
Final Report of the Banking Investigation Authorized by House Roll No 585, A.C. Shallenberger, Chief Examiner, 1930.

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 #
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other (Name of repository)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PP05-004

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre USGS Quadrangle Loomis Quadrangle

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): Mean Sea Level

___ NAD 1927 or ___ NAD 1983

1. Zone 14 Easting 456995 Northing 4480896
2. Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Original Town, Lot 9, Block 4, Loomis, Phelps County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
Includes all historically associated property.

Farmers State Bank
Name of Property

Phelps County, Nebraska
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Robert Puschendorf, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date August 14, 2013
street & number 1500 R Street, PO Box 82554 telephone (402) 471-4769
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501
email bob.puschendorf@nebraska.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property Farmers State Bank

City or Vicinity Loomis County Phelps State Nebraska

Photographer Patrick Haynes, NSHS Date Photographed May 11, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, including description of view indicating direction of camera.

Photo 1 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_001
Streetscape of Commercial Street looking northwest

Photo 2 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_002
Main façade looking southwest

Photo 3 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_003
South façade looking northwest

Photo 4 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_004
Rear façade looking east

Photo 5 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_005
Banking room looking west

Farmers State Bank
Name of Property

Phelps County, Nebraska
County and State

Photo 6 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_006
Mosaic tile floor, vestibule and banking room floor looking south

Photo 7 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_007
Pressed tin ceiling, main banking room looking west

Photo 8 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_008
Interior of banking room looking southeast

Photo 9 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_009
Vault door and portable light looking southwest

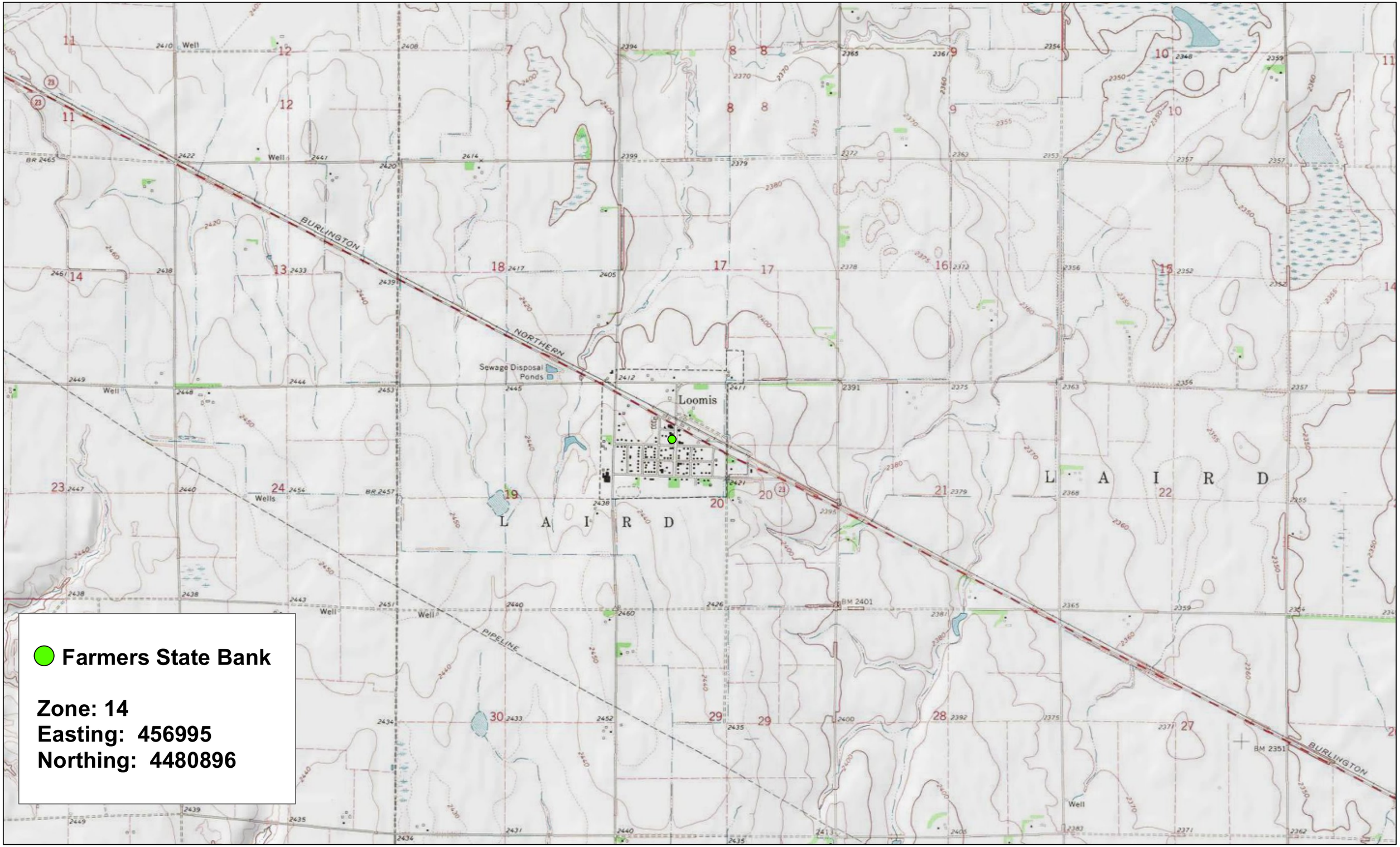
Photo 10 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_010
Tellers service counter showing panel looking southwest

Photo 11 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_011
Vault door looking west

Photo 12 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_012
Safety deposit boxes looking north

Photo 13 of 13. NE_PhelpsCounty_FarmersStateBank_013
Tellers service counter looking north

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Loomis USGS Quadrangle 1:24,000 Loomis, Phelps County, Nebraska

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

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All Kinds of
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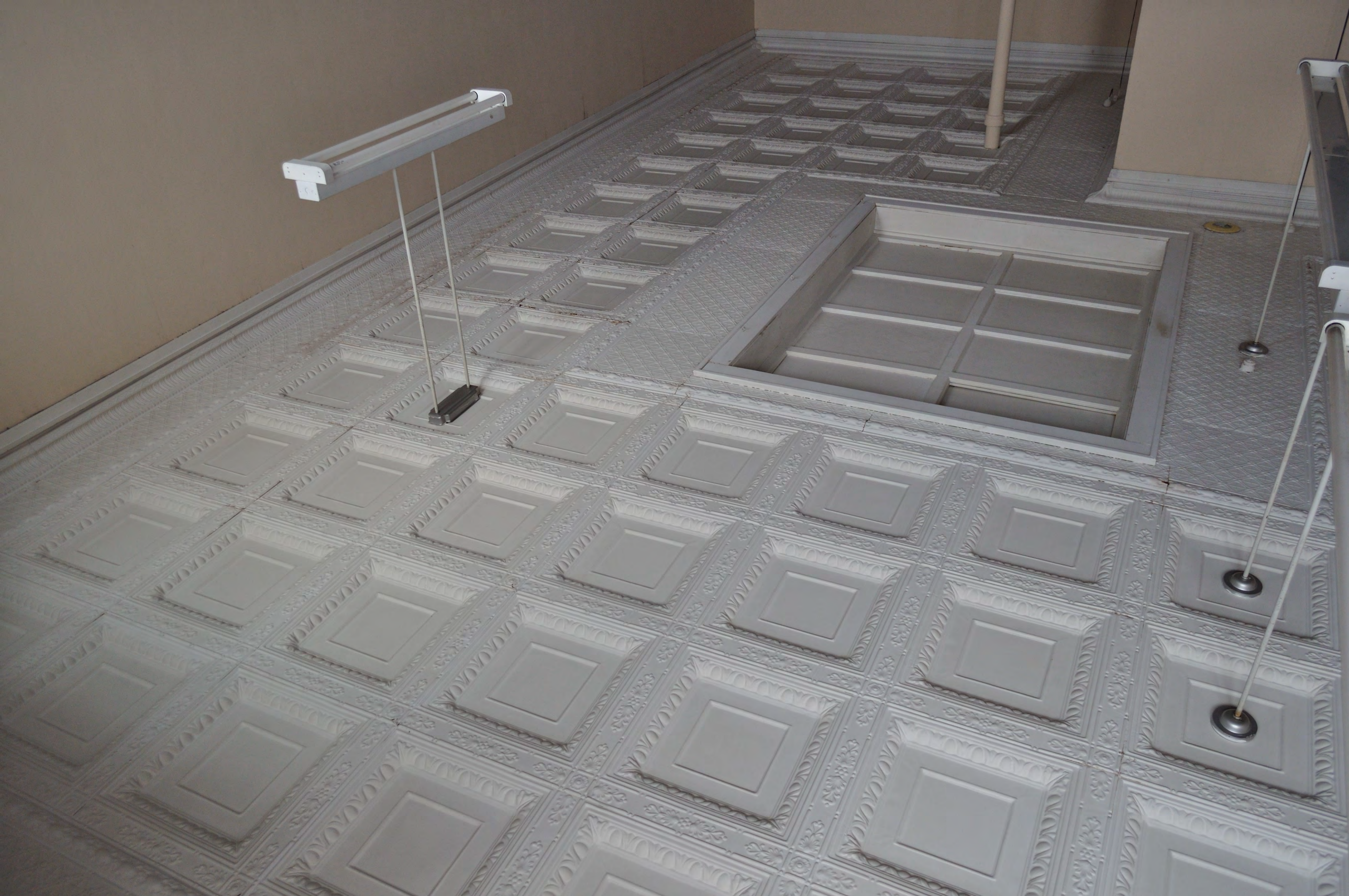
BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEBRASKA
I WANT YOU FOR U.S. ARMY
CARL W. THORELL



SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULT.

Y-B

PHILLIS GALE LAKE

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