

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 25 2001

COPY

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Burr Oak Savings Bank

other names/site number Burr Oak Post Office

2. Location

street & number 3608 236th Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Burr Oak N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Winnishiek code 191 zip code 52101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Donell J. Locke June 26, 2001
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- 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 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE:Bank

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

METAL

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1910

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

McGee & Riceland

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Laura Ingalls Wilder Park & Museum, Burr Oak, IA

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Burr Oak Savings Bank, Winneshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Description

Site: The Burr Oak Savings Bank is located on Lot 6 of Block 9 of Original Village of Burr Oak in Burr Oak Township approximately two miles south of the Iowa-Minnesota border. The building is located at a T-intersection with the front facing west. The gently sloping lot has a 46' width and an 80' depth with slight rise towards the rear. An embankment extends along the south side of the property from the front sidewalk to the rear of the property line. A narrow concrete sidewalk extends along the south façade and a wider walk along the front or west façade. A line of oak trees located along the top of the embankment extends to the rear of the property. The 100' high trees over arch the building, their height accentuating the bank's diminished size.

236th Avenue (originally State Street) is the primary route through Burr Oak from north to south. It is a narrow asphalt paved road with no curb and gutter. A church is sited on a rise to the southeast of the former bank building and a vacant lot is located to the north. The Burr Oak business district consists of only a handful of buildings including a restaurant, tavern, and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum, which is located in a former hotel occupied by the Ingalls family during their residence in Burr Oak. U.S. Highway 52 connecting St. Paul, MN and Dubuque, IA extends along the western edge of Burr Oak.

Building: This 1-story, freestanding tile and brick commercial building was built in 1910 according to reliable local newspaper accounts that record its construction progress. The original building measured 32' by 20' and an addition measuring 12' by 20' was built at the rear of the building sometime prior to 1931. The only fire insurance map for Burr Oak prepared in that year shows the rear addition in place.

This bank building is an example of the one-part commercial block form with Italianate Style ornamentation. This common form of vernacular commercial architecture dated from the last decades of the 19th century through World War I. Though buildings such as this were often appeared in a series of contiguous buildings rather than as a freestanding building, bank buildings such as this one were frequent exceptions. This brick-front example has an ashlar concrete block foundation on rubble limestone footings, tile walls faced in reddish brick, and limestone sills and lintels for the window and door openings. The front façade is organized with a single large display window on the left and the entrance off-center to the right. The front entrance originally had a transom located above the door, which had horizontal wood panels in the lower half, and a glass light in the upper section. This door is in poor condition but stored in the building. The display window was removed at an unknown date and replaced with three 1/1 fixed sash.

The upper portion of the front façade has a recessed horizontal brick panel above the front window and entrance. The upper edge of the panel has corbeled brickwork in a dentil-like pattern. The cornice for the building is fabricated of pressed tin and features brackets separating pairs of arched moldings with embossed designs in the end pieces topped by finials. The overall effect of the brickwork and cornice is Italianate in style making the bank somewhat of an architectural anomaly – a late example of a 19th century style. One of the finials is missing the metal ball but the balance of the cornice is intact. Elements missing from the front façade that appear in an early photo include a crank style awning with the name of the bank printed along its scalloped edge and a flag pole centered above the cornice. The front window originally had the name of the bank painted in it.

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Historic photograph, ca. 1910



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The side walls have a stepped parapet that follows the building's roof slope. The south façade has three 1/1 double-hung windows and an entrance without a transom. The original door has been replaced with a door containing nine lights in the upper half and a panel below. An exposed concrete block chimney has been added along the south façade immediately left of the entrance and extends approximately 7' above the edge of the parapet. The north façade has only one window and it matches the configuration of those on the south.

The rear addition is constructed of tile with a brick facing. The rear entrance had a flat arch and the two window openings had segmental arches. The windows matched the 1/1 configurations of those in the front and the door appears to have been a 5-panel (horizontal) wood door.

The interior of the building is in extremely poor condition with collapsing ceiling sections, missing floor sections, deteriorating plaster, and missing doors. The original plan included a large banking room at the front with a lobby and ell-shaped teller line (missing) along the north side. The cashier's office was likely contained within this room as well. The vault is located midway along the north wall of the building and includes two entrances. One entrance into the front room would have allowed access from the rear of the teller line for storage of cash and coinage. The other entrance was for accessing the safety deposit boxes and was located in the room located to the rear of the lobby. The rear addition held several rooms that may have been used for offices, storage, or a boardroom.

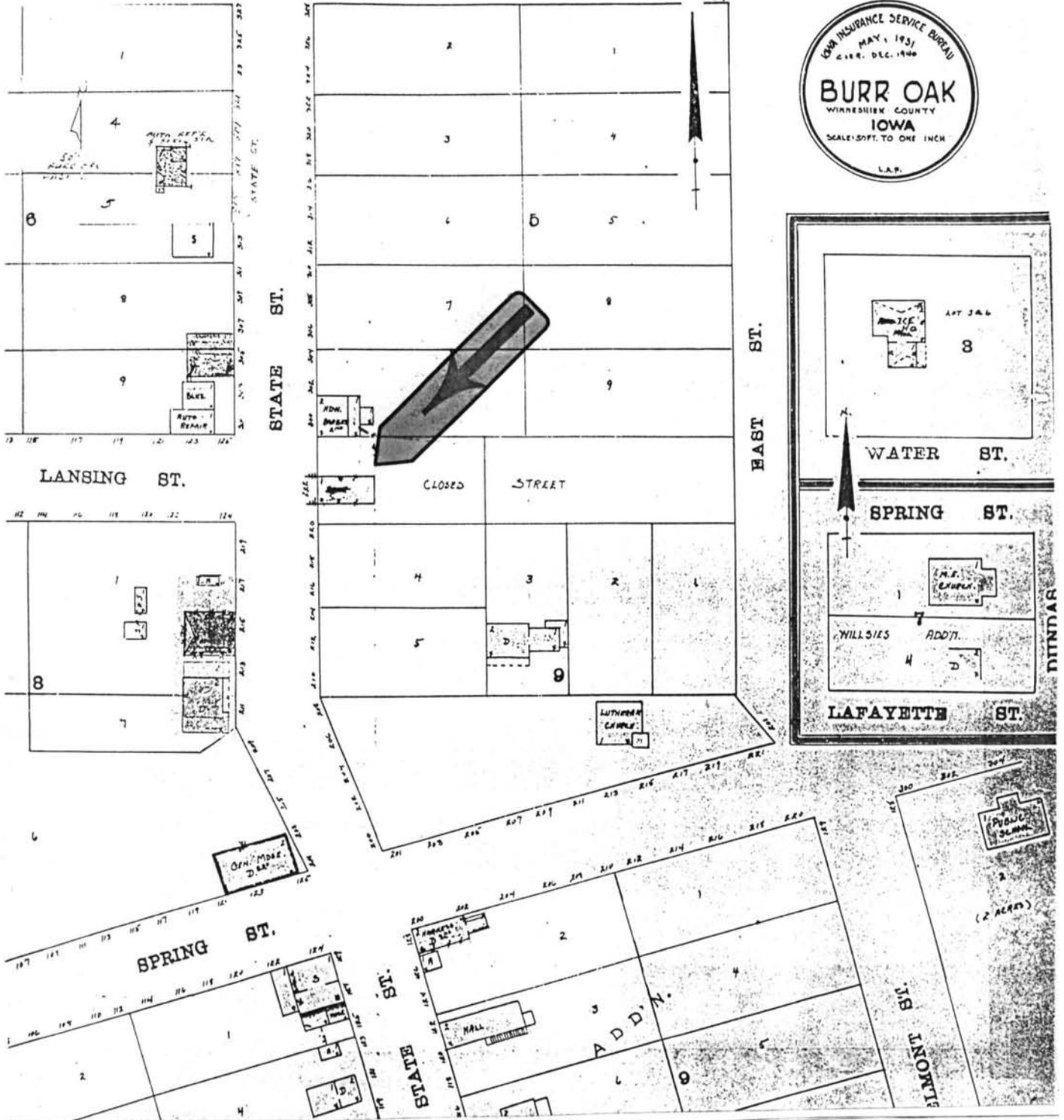
Following the closure of the bank the building was used as a barbershop (pre-ca. 1950) and a post office (ca. 1950 – 1981). Because the building has no central heating, wood/coal stoves located in each section of the building originally provided heat. These have been replaced with more modern units. Little or no evidence survives of the building's use as a barbershop or post office and only the vault remains from the building's days as a bank. Other alterations previously noted include the replacement of the front window, removal of the awning, replacement of the south door, and the addition of a concrete block chimney along the south wall. Any other changes to the building are a result of deterioration during its period of vacancy.

A major rehabilitation of the Burr Oak Savings Bank is planned for 2001 with conversion of the building to a visitor's center to be used in conjunction with operation of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum (listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Burr Oak House/Masters Hotel) located approximately 100 feet away. The project will involve a new HVAC system, plumbing, electrical work, and new finishes on the interior. Exterior work will include masonry repairs and tuckpointing, a new roof, and replacement windows and doors. All work will be completed in conformance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Historic Buildings* and reviewed by the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service.

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Burr Oak Savings Bank, Winneshiek County, Iowa

Map of Burr Oak, Iowa Insurance Service Bureau, 1931 corrected to 1940



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Burr Oak Savings Bank, Winneshiek County, Iowa

Statement of Significance

Summary: The Burr Oak Savings Bank is significant locally under National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, it derives significance from its association with the economic prosperity of Burr Oak at the beginning of the 20th century. Its construction in 1910 was during a boom period for agricultural production and land values in Iowa that saw hundreds of similar small "savings banks" constructed throughout the state. It is also a good example of the one-part commercial block form, one of the most common forms of vernacular commercial architecture used along America's Main Streets during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is the only building to survive along Burr Oak's main street from this boom period. Its modest size, simple ornamentation, and siting remain intact. As a result, the bank is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a good example of how this vernacular architectural form was popularized in hundreds of Iowa's smallest rural communities prior to World War I.

Background:

Burr Oak was established in 1855 on the banks of Silver Creek in the eastern half of Burr Oak Township. Located about 12 miles north of Decorah and about 3 miles south of the Minnesota state line, Burr Oak was named for the grove of bur¹ oak trees surrounding the township school north of Silver Creek. Early settlers operated mills, harvested timber from nearby stands of hardwoods, and extracted blue limestone from two nearby quarries. Merchants soon established a general store, a hotel, and several other businesses along the north-south route of State Street (236th Avenue, today). Churches were constructed to house three Protestant congregations, and dozens of homes were eventually built along a series of rolling gentle hills. By the time the Burr Oak Savings Bank was constructed, the village had grown to include two general stores, a farm implement dealer, a butcher shop, feed mill, novelty store, barbershop, blacksmith, hotel, pool hall, and creamery.

According to the federal census, township population grew from 591 in 1860 to 960 ten years later. This appears to have been a peak with subsequent census records showing a decline to 826 in 1880 and 731 in 1890. By the turn of the 20th century population was again on the increase in the township with 825 counted in the 1900 census. Population figures fluctuate in subsequent census counts – 661 in 1910, 700 in 1920, 665 in 1930, and 684 in 1940. Population figures for the village of Burr Oak are more difficult to identify but likely reflect the overall growth and decline of the township as a whole during this time period. In 1880 records indicate a population of 199. Today, Burr Oak numbers between 150 and 200.

The formation of a savings bank in Burr Oak was first written about in local newspapers in April 1910. The stockholders described as "principally the people of Burr Oak and neighboring farmers" voted to incorporate under the name of the "Burr Oak Savings Bank." State law required that a minimum of \$10,000 capital stock be subscribed. This was done within a short time with most stockholders holding only one share at \$100 par value so that the stock was well distributed. On April 12, 1910 the

¹The correct spelling for the oak tree is "bur." Local legend has it that the village postmaster incorrectly spelled it and the name has held through the years. It is more likely that the error was made at the time the county was surveyed and the township named.

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stockholders met and elected a board of seven directors to direct its operation. Dr. W.H. Emmons, was elected president; J.A. Thompson, vice-president; J.E. Briggs, secretary and T.E. Roberts, treasurer. Members of the first board of directors were involved in other local businesses as well. For example, Dr. Emmons who served the community as a physician also handled drugs and was associated with two other thriving Burr Oak establishments at the time – the Burr Oak Mercantile Co. and the Silver Creek Creamery. Thompson was a partner in Thompson & Kippe's general store and Briggs had a local business as well. Other board members were prominent farmers in the township.

The first task facing the bank's board was to erect a building. The lot selected consisted of a closed section of Lansing Street that was vacated to provide a site for the bank building. Newspaper accounts indicate that prior to the construction of the building, Emmons and Thompson visited the town of Randalia located in central Fayette County approximately 50 miles south of Burr Oak to view their bank. Still standing today, this 1-story brick bank is substantially larger than the Burr Oak Savings Bank and was built on a corner site. Plans were assembled for bid letting within four weeks of the bank's incorporation. This extremely short time leads to speculation that the bank plans may have been acquired from a firm such as the Lytle Company of Sioux City which specialized in banks in Iowa or A. Moorman & Co. of St. Paul which did the same in Minnesota. Archival research regarding these two companies has failed to identify the Burr Oak Savings Bank as either company's design, however.

The contract for the construction of the bank was awarded shortly after bids were let on May 16, 1910 to contractors McGee and Riceland of Harmony, Minnesota. By mid-June the *Decorah Public Opinion* reported that the masons had arrived from Canton, Minnesota to lay the walls for the bank. Meanwhile the organization of the bank itself continued. F.E. Cratsenberg, former County Surveyor, was elected cashier and the articles of incorporation were approved by the board and submitted to the Auditor of the State for review. By the end of August 1910 the bank was completed but its planned September 1st opening was delayed because the safe had not yet arrived. Finally, on October 3rd the bank received state authorization to conduct business and opened for business a few days later on October 6th. By the time the bank published its first statement of condition on November 10, 1910 less than five weeks later, deposits exceeded \$11,000. Two months later at its first annual meeting in January 1911, the bank reported nearly \$30,000 in deposits and \$23,000 in loans.

In August 1912 Cratsenberg returned to Decorah to take the position of assistant cashier with the Citizens Savings Bank though he continued an ownership position in the Burr Oak Savings Bank. He was replaced a short time later by Einar Kippe. At the time he took over as bank cashier, Kippe was co-owner of a general store in Burr Oak along with John A. Thompson, vice-president of the bank. Kippe continued in this capacity until 1920 when M.O. Sattre became cashier.

Membership on the board of directors changed infrequently during the bank's first twenty years with several members serving multi-year terms as officers. Dr. Emmons continued as president in 1917, by which time the bank had assets of \$53,000. Two years later the bank continued in good standing with Ray Algier as president. Bank assets exceeded \$110,000 in 1919, the same year the shareholders sold the bank to the Winneshiek County State Bank. The bank continued to operate under its former name but under the umbrella of the much larger state bank headquartered in Decorah. Local bank operations continued largely unaffected and by 1925, Burr Oak was hailed as the smallest town in Winneshiek County with a bank. The impact on the bank of agricultural recession in Iowa during the

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decade of the 1920s is unknown.

The most sensational event in the history of the Burr Oak Savings Bank occurred on April 22, 1931. Two young men from Minnesota entered the bank that afternoon and robbed it escaping with \$1,000 in cash. A short time later, one of the bandits wrote a letter to his girlfriend back in Wisconsin admitting to involvement in the robbery and promising to return. The letter made its way to the Winneshiek County sheriff and the two robbers were identified and returned to stand trial. Before the trial, however, both admitted their guilt and were given life sentences. The search, apprehension, and conviction of the two robbers all took place in just two week's time and were described in local newspaper accounts as "one of the quickest apprehensions on record for bank robbery in the state of Iowa." The newspaper also reported that the Burr Oak Savings Bank hold-up was the first such robbery to occur in Winneshiek County.

In January 1932 the Burr Oak Savings Bank and its parent bank, the Winneshiek County State Bank, went into receivership and closed operations in Burr Oak. L.A. Andrew, Superintendent of Banking for the State of Iowa, was appointed receiver with R.W. Kaster eventually taking over that role. Newspaper accounts celebrated the receipt of dividend payments for depositors as an indication that the local economy was recovering despite dismal agricultural prices. In July 1933 a 10 percent dividend totaling \$11,500 was paid to Burr Oak Savings Bank depositors. For the next seven years bank depositors continued to receive dividends on certificates and passbook accounts. The final dividend was paid on May 30, 1940.

The story of the Burr Oak Savings Bank is similar to those of hundreds of other small savings banks established in Iowa in the decades before and after the turn of the 20th century. In describing the history of banking in Iowa, Howard Preston identifies the stock savings bank structure used in the organization of the Burr Oak Savings Bank as one of the most popular types of banks. He notes that "of the 1,185 stock savings banks in the United States reporting in 1917 to the Comptroller of the Currency, 892 were in Iowa."² The popularity of stock savings bank was a result of its capacity to transact nearly all types of banking business and the need in smaller communities – those with populations of 10,000 or less – to have only \$10,000 of capital stock. Preston notes that Iowa led the nation in the number of banks in 1909 with 1,365. Of these 572 fell into the category of savings banks, of which 61% had capital of less than \$25,000. Most would have been unable to organize under the higher thresholds set for state and national banks at the time.

Iowa historian Leland Sage described the economic back drop at the turn of the 20th century in the state as the "Golden Age of Agriculture," a period of growing prosperity extending from 1897 through 1920 when the total number of banks doubled from 1,014 in 1897 to 1,923 in 1920. Preston's "Chart III" showing the growth of various classes of banks between 1877 and 1917 and "Table IV" appear below. Together they graphically demonstrate the connection between the Golden Age of Agriculture and growth in the state's banking industry.

²Preston, Howard H. *History of Banking in Iowa*. Iowa City, IA: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1922, p. 155.

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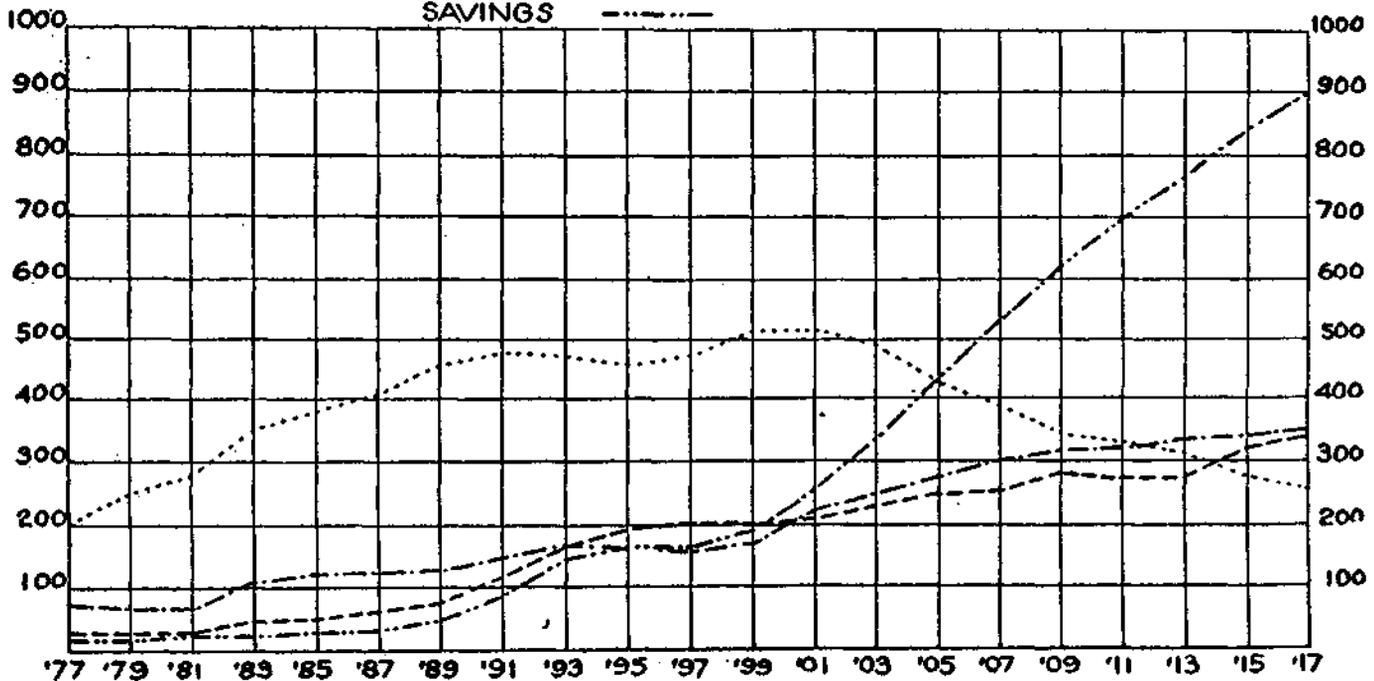
Burr Oak Savings Bank, Winneshiek County, Iowa

Although no statewide historic context for banking has been developed to date, the work of Jan Nash of Tall Grass Historians in August 1999 in her intensive level survey for two rural banks in Clinton County identifies the importance of rural banking and the architectural design work that grew up around this building boom in Iowa at the turn of the 20th century. She identified the need for such a historic context

Chart III, Number of Banks of the Various Classes in Iowa, 1877-1917³

CHART III
NUMBER OF BANKS OF THE VARIOUS
CLASSES IN IOWA 1877-1917

PRIVATE
NATIONAL	-----
STATE	-----
SAVINGS	-----



and prepared a brief narrative for such a context. Her recommendations for the eligibility of banks in Calamus and Grand Mound, Iowa are consistent with the finding for the Burr Oak State Bank. The rich variety seen in Iowa's rural bank architecture and the important story of Iowa's agricultural history

³Ibid., p. 170.

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combine to make a strong historic context for surviving rural bank buildings in Iowa's smallest communities.

In summary, the Burr Oak Savings Bank survives as a witness to Iowa's Golden Age of Agriculture. The collective confidence of its incorporators in the bounty of the land and the prosperity of their commercial endeavors is reflected in its construction. Its demise and closure two decades later in 1932 reflected the end of this boom in agriculture for Burr Oak and other small rural communities. It survives today as the only commercial building erected along Burr Oak's main street during this boom period.

Number of Banks in Iowa, 1875-1920⁴

NUMBER OF BANKS IN IOWA, 1875-1920 ⁴⁰⁷								
YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF BANKS	AUTHORIZED BANKS						PRIVATE BANKS
		TOTAL NUMBER	NATIONAL BANKS	STATE SUPERVISED				
				TOTAL NUMBER	STATE BANKS	SAVING BANKS	LOAN AND TRUST COs.	
1875	222	123	81	42	23	19		199
1876			78					
1877	329	128	78	50	31	19		201
1878			76			32		232
1879	378	126	73	53	33	20		252
1880			75			32		264
1881	418	129	76	53	31	22		280
1882			88			40		290
1883	530	186	110	76	46	28		333
1884			123			49		378
1885	592	209	125	84	50	34		383
1886			158			59		388
1887	641	230	128	102	65	37		411
1888	678	245	129	116	74	42		423
1889	719	263	133	130	80	50		456
1890	788	303	139	164	105	59		485
1891	838	356	151	205	122	83		482
1892	884	406	161	245	141	104		478
1893	968	494	169	325	177	148		474
1894	979	519	169	350	188	162		460
1895	995	531	167	364	194	170		464
1896	1013	536	166	370	201			477
1897	1014	537	165	372	206	166		477
1898	1041	551	168	383	209			490
1899	1093	574	172	402	207	195		519
1900	1178	644	196	448	214			534
1901	1216	695	221	474	218	256		521
1902	1241	781	230	531	230			480
1903	1320	827	253	574	238	336		493
1904	1372	888	269	619	244			484
1905	1396	958	281	677	248	429		438
1906	1480	1042	297	745	251	494		458
1907	1515	1116	304	812	259			399
1908	1546	1164	319	845	261	571	13	382
1909	1564	1218	320	898	282			356
1910	1622	1277	326	951	272	663	15	345
1911	1659	1313	329	984				346
1912	1685	1354	338	1016	281	721	14	331
1913	1728	1408	340	1069				320
1914	1755	1457	343	1114	304	791	19	296
1915	1801	1519	349	1171				282
1916	1843	1570	353	1217	331	855	21	273
1917	1880	1618	351	1267	343	899	25	262
1918	1917	1662	353	1309	363	923	25	255
1919	1916	1675	355	1320	371	926	23	241
1920	1923	1704	358	1346	389	934	23	219

⁴Ibid., p. 170.

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- Newspaper articles in *Decorah Journal*. Decorah, Iowa:
- "Burr Oak, Smallest Town in County Having a Bank," Historical Edition, March 18, 1925.
 - "Responsibilities Burr Oak Bank Million and Half Dollars," Historical Edition, March 18, 1925.
 - "Advertisement for Burr Oak Savings Bank," Historical Edition, March 18, 1925.
 - "Dr. W. H. Emmons Dies Suddenly at Home Saturday," September 13, 1933, p. 4.
 - "Burr Oak Bank Bandit is Freed," October 9, 1941.
 - "J.E. Briggs, Burr Oak Native, Dies," March 23, 1944.
 - "Isaac Reed, 84, Died at Burr Oak," July 3, 1952.

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"To Hold Funeral Services Today for Ray Algyer," February 14, 1957.

Newspaper articles in *Decorah Public Opinion*. Decorah, Iowa (chronological order):

"New Bank at Burr Oak," April 6, 1910, p. 3, col. 1.

"Burr Oak Bank Organized," April 13, 1910, p. 2, col. 2.

"Burr Oak News," April 20, 1910, p. 11, col. 1.

"Notice for Bids on Bank Building," May 4 & 5, 1910, p. 4, col. 2.

"Burr Oak Bank Progress," May 4, 1910, p. 4, col. 4.

"Cashier Burr Oak Bank," May 11, 1910, p. 2, col. 1.

"Burr Oak News," June 22, 1910, n.p.

"Public Notice: Articles of Incorporation of the Burr Oak Savings Bank of Burr Oak, Iowa," July 27, 1910, n.p.

"The Burr Oak Savings Bank," August 31, 1910.

"Correspondence. Burr Oak," October 12, 1910.

"Public Notice: State of Iowa Office of Auditor of State," October 12, 1910.

"New Bank Opened," October 12, 1910.

"Public Notice: Statement of the Condition of the Burr Oak Savings Bank," November 23, 1910.

"Annual Meeting, Burr Oak Bank," January 11, 1911.

"Burr Oak Bank Meeting, A fine Report Made and All Old Officers Re-elected," January 18, 1911.

"Public Notice: Statement of the Condition of the Burr Oak Savings Bank," December 18, 1917.

"Public Notice: Statement of the Condition of the Burr Oak Savings Bank," February 4, 1920.

"Advertisement for Winneshiek County State Bank, To Savings Depositors," February 4, 1920.

"Dr. W.H. Emmons Dies in Sudden Heart Attack," September 14, 1933.

Newspaper articles in *Decorah Public Opinion and Decorah Republican*, Decorah, Iowa (chronological order):

"Bank Robbers in County Jail," May 1931.

"Bank Robbers Get Life Sentences," May 14, 1931, pp. 1 & 12.

Obituary for John Almer Thompson, Burr Oak news, March 5, 1914.

"Release \$278,000 in Bank Deposits, Community Receives Tremendous Financial Boost," July 20, 1933.

"Advertisement 'To all depositors of the Burr Oak Savings Bank,' May 30, 1940.

"Melvin O. Sattre," December 12, 1995.

Newspaper articles in *Decorah Republican*. Decorah, Iowa:

"Burr Oak," June 9, 1910.

Newspaper articles in unidentified Decorah newspaper, Decorah, Iowa:

"Burr Oak Bank Held Up and Robbed of \$1,000," April 27, 1931 (approximate date).

Photograph, Burr Oak Savings Bank, ca. 1910.

Preston, Howard H. *History of Banking in Iowa*. Iowa City, IA: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1922.

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"Proposed Burr Oak Bank Rehabilitation, Wilder Visitor Center, Burr Oak, Iowa," prepared by Cook Construction, Decorah, Iowa, May 5, 1999.

Redman, J.H. "Restored Confidence in Iowa Banks," *Annals of Iowa* Vol. XXX (July 1949), No. 1: pp. 56-61.

Sage, Leland. *A History of Iowa*. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1974.

A Self-guiding Auto Tour of Winneshiek County, Iowa. Decorah, Iowa: Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission, 1987.

"This 'n That," unidentified newspaper, April 1984.

Winneshiek County Assessors' Office, Property Card for 3608 236th Ave, Burr Oak, Iowa.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 6, Block 9, Original Village of Burr Oak, Winneshiek County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification

This parcel includes the original parcel of land purchased by the incorporators of the Burr Oak Savings Bank for construction of their building.

Photographs: Photographs taken November 2000 by Marlys A. Svendsen, Sarona, Wisconsin. Negatives stored with Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum & Park, Burr Oak, Iowa.

1. Exterior, looking southeast, bank front and north side
2. Exterior, looking northeast, bank front and south side
3. Exterior, looking east, cornice detail
4. Exterior, looking northeast, bank and tree embankment

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Burr Oak Savings Bank, Winneshiek County, Iowa

Sketch Map for Site and Building, 2001

