

Farmers & Merchants State Bank
1135 Seventh Avenue
Marion
Linn County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-162

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Rocky Mountain System Support Office
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P.O. Box 25287
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

FARMERS & MERCHANTS STATE BANK

HABS No. IA-162

Location: 1135 Seventh Avenue, located in Block 19 (locally known as Marion Square Plaza or Marion Square Mall, of the town of Marion, Linn County, Iowa

Date of Construction: 1894

Present Owner: Scott E. Olson

Original Use: Bank

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Farmers & Merchants State Bank was a well preserved example of turn-of-the-century small town romanesque style construction. In the early 1960's, extensive renovation replaced the elaborate facade with cream colored brick and aluminum sign.

A. Physical Description of Block 19

See HABS No. IA-161 Daniels Opera House

B. Physical Description of The Farmers and Merchants State Bank Building

This two-story, brick building was constructed in 1894 by William A. Fulkerson, a Cedar Rapids architect. The building exhibited some Italianate detailing in its cornice and window treatments but this influence was rather restrained in keeping with the growing trend toward architectural simplicity that was apparent at that time. Originally, the bank occupied the first floor while the upper floor was devoted to professional offices and the basement housed a barber shop.

A major renovation took place in the early 1960's by Farmer's State Bank using Dean Barhizer as the architect. All ornamentation was removed and a new cream-colored brick was applied along with an aluminum canopy. In the 1970's Farmers State Bank moved to a different location leaving the building vacant.