

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bank of Webster (1910) is a two story, brick, neo-classical building located in downtown Minden. Despite some alteration, the bank retains its National Register eligibility.

The Bank of Webster is a deep structure with only a fairly narrow frontage on the street. Its principal architectural feature is its monumental distyle in antis Ionic facade which culminates in a classical shaped parapet with a central bas relief eagle inscribed in a wreath. Originally the facade fenestration was square head, but recently the entranceway was reworked in the form of a Palladian motif. The side elevation, which runs along an alley, features shallow arched openings. In about 1940 the bank received a rear addition which extended the building right through the block to the street behind. This created a secondary (rear) elevation which was recently given a post-Modernist treatment. For the record, the interior of the bank is completely modern.

### **Assessment of Integrity**

Despite the many alterations the bank has undergone, it still retains its neo-classical facade, which is the source of its significance.

Specific dates                    1910  
Builder/Architect                Builder: Bank of Webster

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

The Bank of Webster is locally significant in the area of architecture as a very superior example from among a limited number of historic commercial buildings in Webster Parish

The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Structures Survey has identified 432 buildings in Webster Parish that are fifty years old or older. Being a large rural parish, Webster is mainly characterized by residences and outbuildings. In fact, the survey identified only seventeen historic masonry commercial buildings in the entire parish, all of which are in Minden and all of which appear to date from c.1900-c.1930. For the most part, articulation on these buildings is limited to brick panels and cornices, trimmed parapets, and square head windows. The Bank of Webster is far more pretentious than this, being the only commercial building in the parish to feature high style neo-classical articulation. It is the only commercial use of free-standing columns (let alone colossal ones) and the only commercial use of a full entablature.

### Major Bibliographical References

Webster Parish Historic Structures Survey, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.