

City of Eau Claire



Landmark Commission

Union National Bank (now U.S. Bank)

131 South Barstow Street
1930, Art Deco/Moderne



This building was the city's primary example of Art Deco architecture and is the only major surviving building of its style. It represents the "modern" architecture that highlighted the central business districts of the nation's largest cities in the nineteen-twenties and thirties. The building was designed by Burham Brothers, Inc., of Chicago. An architecturally compatible two-story addition was erected north of the main building in 1980.

The Union National Bank was organized in 1906 through the merger of two local banks, the Bank of Eau Claire (established in the early 1870s) and the Chippewa Valley Bank (founded in 1885). In 1929, First Wisconsin Bankshares obtained an interest in the bank. This additional backing enabled the Union National to survive the Great Depression, the only one of four banks in Eau Claire to do so.

The name of the bank was changed to First Wisconsin National Bank of Eau Claire in 1965, to Firststar Bank in 1994 and to U.S. Bank in 2002.