

NOV 20 1979

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County Hamilton

Inventory # 1-31-529

Temp. Field # 12

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Historic Name Chattanooga Bank Building Common Name Same

Earl A. Fertig, et al. Chattanooga Bank Building

Owner c/o Chattanooga Associates Address Chattanooga, TN 37402

Property Location On Eighth Street between Market and Broad Streets

Map: Quad Name Chattanooga No. 105-SE Edition 1969

Historical Data: Date of Construction 1927-28 Source (See attached sheet)

Informant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Present Use Offices Original Use Bank and offices

Original Location Yes Moved? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Site Bldg. XX Structure \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_ Part of District Thematic

Areas of Significance Architecture

Eligible for NR? Yes Why? This is the best remaining example of a banking institution in Chattanooga designed by Hunt and reflects Hunt's transition from Classical influences to Art Deco.

Property endangered? No By what? \_\_\_\_\_

Photos: B&W: Roll # \_\_\_\_\_ Frame # \_\_\_\_\_ Date taken \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

Color: Roll # \_\_\_\_\_ Frame # \_\_\_\_\_ Date taken \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Negative \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by: Martha Carver Date Recorded: February, 1979

Address: Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission

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Architectural Data: Construction: Frame      Log      Brick      Stone XX

No. of stories 10 1/2 Roof type flat Material      Original?     

Wall covering: weatherboard      B&B      Vertical board      None XX

Tongue and Grooved      Sawn      Other     

Chimney: No.      Location      Material     

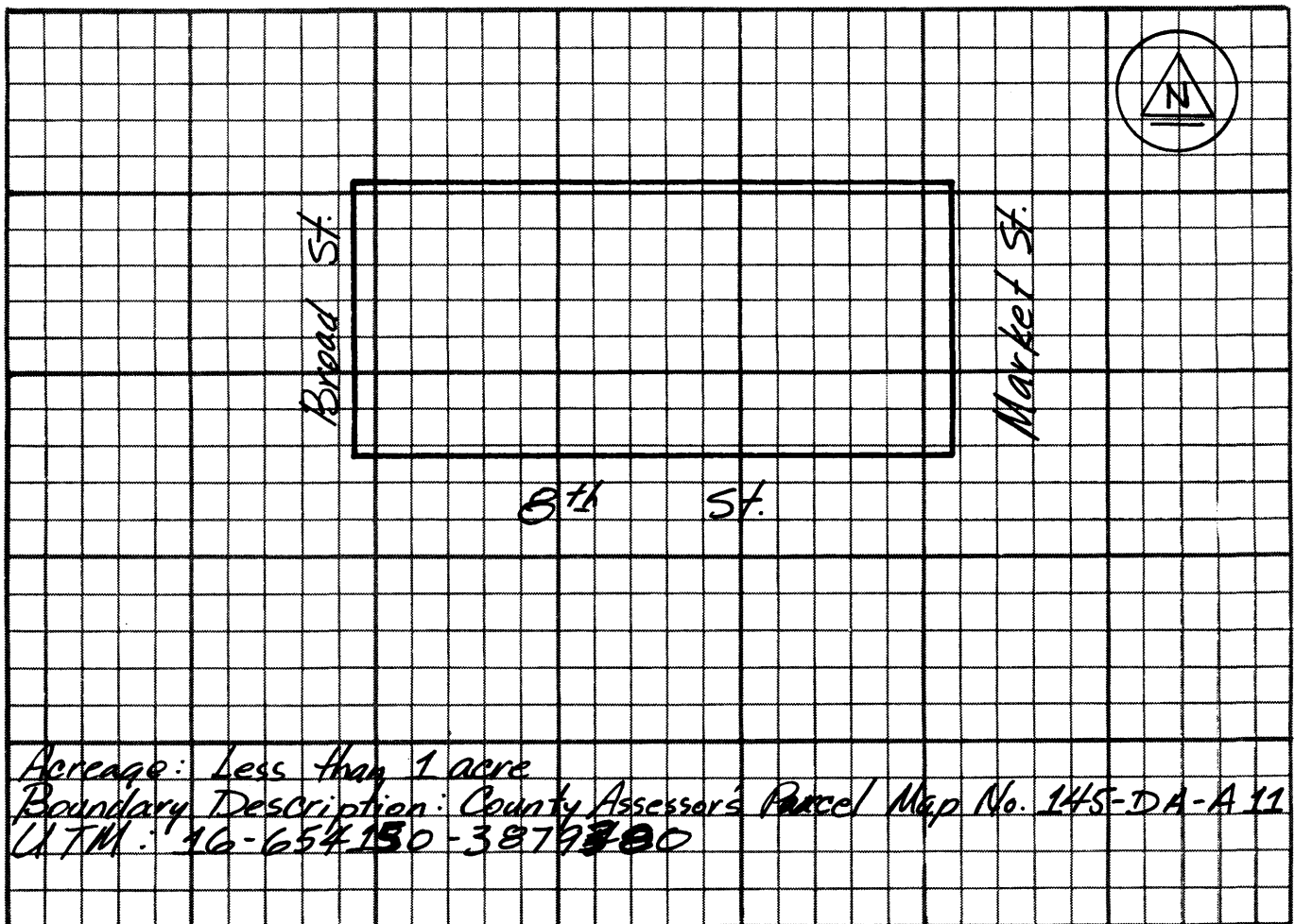
Foundation: Pier      Stone      Brick      Other     

Basic Plan Rectangular

Traditional

Architectural Notes Skyscraper design--first two floors have decorative features such as arched windows, wave motif, and eagles separating each bay, eagles also flank the side entrances; row of decorative features below the tenth story level, elaborate cornice. Interior lobby retains its original ceiling treatment, brass elevators, and brass mailbox.

Sketch Plan Below (include North, door and window locations, etc.):



SEP 15 1980

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As discussed previously, the Chattanooga Bank Building as well as the Medical Arts Building were constructed in the late 1920s and reflect Hunt's passage from Classical Revival influences into the Art Deco period. While neither represents the total influence of the Art Deco style, each represents in a different manner this significant transitional period of both Hunt and the style.

Hunt designed at least three banks in the Chattanooga area. Since many banks had short periods of existence due to frequent mergers, or changing financial situations, or it is somewhat difficult to determine exactly which banks were designed by Hunt. It is known that he designed at least three banks--all of which remain:

Hamilton National Bank (1910-11): An elaborately designed skyscraper in the Neo-Classical style, this building was covered with a metal sheathing in the 1960s. Due to damage caused by the support system for the sheathing, it appears that it would be impossible to remove the sheathing to reveal the original structure.

Chattanooga Bank Building(1928): Reflecting Art Deco elements, this building is a ten-story skyscraper.

First National Bank Branch (1930): A modest, two-story Colonial Revival branch bank, this building was damaged in a 1977 explosion and is currently vacant.

After examining the merits of these buildings, it was decided to include only the Chattanooga Bank Building in this district to represent Hunt's work in the design of banking institutions. It was felt that the Hamilton National Bank no longer met the National Register criteria and that the First National Bank Branch was of a more modest design and exhibited many features seen in other more significant buildings designed by Hunt.

Structurally, the building is similar in composition to the Medical Arts Building and reflects the traditional skyscraper design: a rectangular base with three visual divisions: two-story base, shaft, and decorative cornice. Yet, the execution of the exterior is quite different.

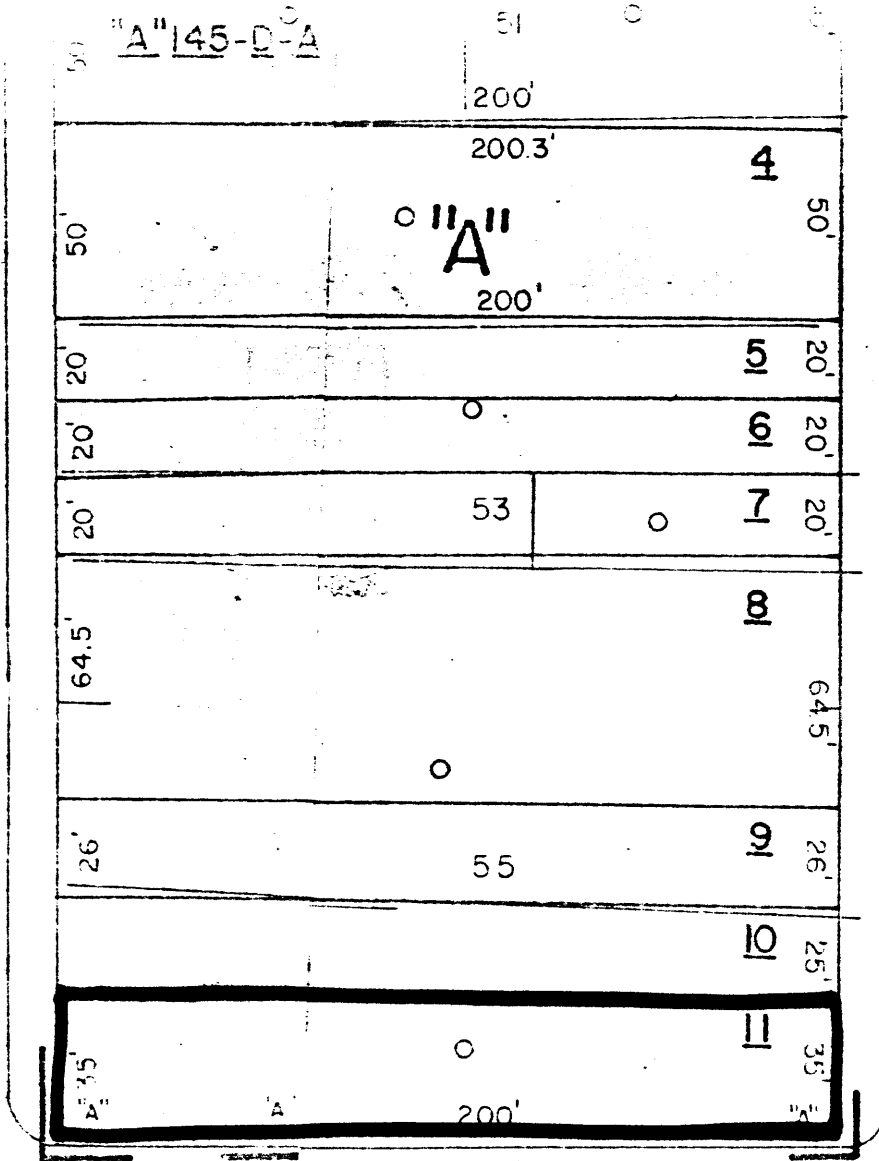
While the Medical Arts Building reflects the geometric influences of the Art Deco style, the Chattanooga Bank Building reflects the theme of nature in its decorative elements.

The facade of the two-story base is clearly delineated by a series of arched windows. Below each window is a series of flowers and vines; above each window is a decorative band composed of waves and elongated lillies. This delineation is reinforced by a series of eagles above the second floor level placed on piers between the windows. Flat and unlikelike, these streamlined eagles harmonize with the vertical emphasis of the shaft division of the building. Also, their wings are designed to give the impression of a chevron, a geometric element. Although the eastern entrance has been altered, the western entrance remains unchanged and again exhibits elements

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related to the theme of nature. The entrance is flanked by a marble surround which contains a series of flowers. Also on the marble is an element which appears to be bound sticks with a hatchet/ax protruding--again symbolic elements relating to plants and man. Again, the eagle motif appears. Since much of the Art Deco style involved symbolism, the eagle motif was probably used on this structure--a bank--to convey the impression of solidity and security.

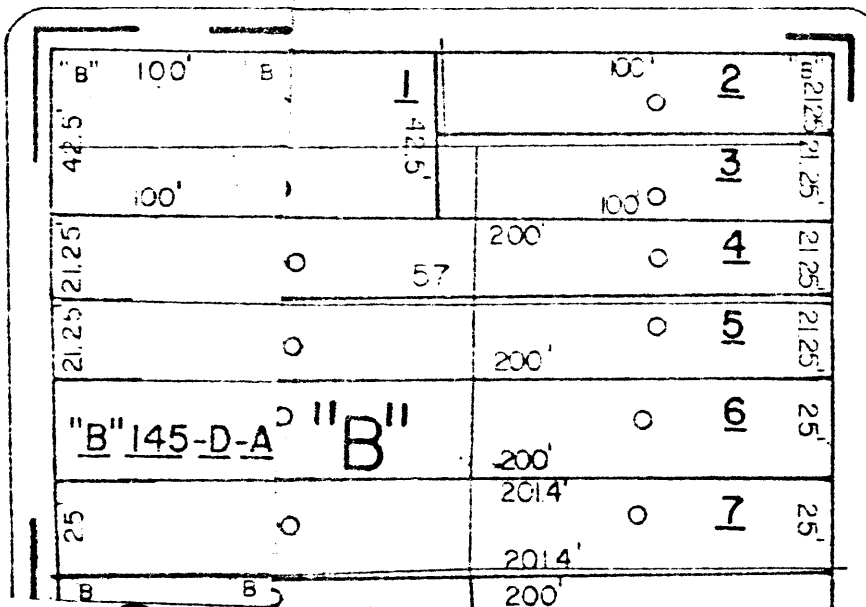
A true sign of the transitional nature of this work can also be seen in the cornice treatment. Aside from the frieze-like wave pattern above the tenth floor, the upper stories reflect more traditional Neo-Classical influences: flowered modillions with Art Deco elements above the ninth floor, dentiled cornice, and raised modillions above the roofline creating the impression of a parapet.



W. 8th ST.

MARKET ST.

WARD 1



Chattanooga Bank Bldg. 145-DA-A11

# 12

1" = 50'

8

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