

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 10 1986
date entered MAR 1 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic First National Bank of Dickson

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 106 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Dickson N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Dickson code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name First National Bank of Dickson

street & number East College Street, P.O. Box 666

city, town Dickson N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dickson County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Charlotte state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on North Main Street in the central business district of Dickson (pop. 7,040), Dickson County, Tennessee, the First National Bank of Dickson is a two story, rectangular building with a flat roof and a solid brick foundation. Constructed in 1920, it reflects the Neo-Classical style of architecture. The exterior wall covering on the facade is smooth ashlar Indiana limestone while the other elevations are brick. Pilasters, egg and dart molding, and dentil moldings are distinguishing ornamental features of the interior. Both the interior and exterior of the First National Bank of Dickson have retained much architectural integrity.

The narrow two story Neo-Classical portico on the three bay east facade is supported by four monumental Tuscan columns with capitals elaborately decorated with egg and dart molding as well as trefoil and fleur-de-lis designs. The base of each column rests on a pedestal. The entablature, on which is inscribed "First National Bank", is highlighted with dentils along the cornice. A paneled and capped parapet with end parapet posts rests atop the entablature. The recessed main entrance, located in the central bay, consists of a single commercial door with sidelights and transom. (Originally, double leaf glass and paneled wooden doors with a multi-paned transom completed the facade door unit). Above the entrance is a simple pediment supported by decorative consoles. A datestone inscribed "1920" is set below the tympanum. A large window which has been covered with corrugated aluminum is located above the pediment. This window originally consisted of small multiple panes separated by wooden mullions. The first and third bays of the facade feature a single pane window protected with decorative wrought iron bars. A stone panel decorated with a garland of leaves and flowers is located above each window. Above these is a stone panel decorated with a motif similar to a form of the Constantinian Monogram. A garland (swag) of leaves, flowers, and ribbon is draped across all three bays.

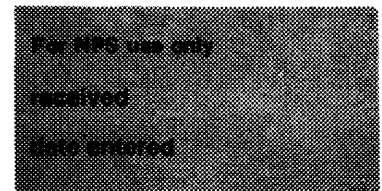
The north elevation consists of a set of double leaf doors (commercial) which open into the main lobby and a single commercial door which leads to offices. Originally, double leaf wooden doors led to the main lobby and a single leaf wooden door led to the offices. The (west) rear elevation consists of one-over-one double hung sash windows in both the upper and lower stories. A doorway in the central bay of the lower story has been enclosed for security measures.

Structurally, the building is in good condition. The structure has received various alterations which include enclosure of skylights (1951), enclosure of the facade window (1951), enclosure of the rear entrance (1951), and the replacement of the deteriorated north elevation brick wall (1973) after the removal of an adjacent structurally unsound concrete block building which detracted from the historic character of the bank as well as contributed to the deterioration of the brick wall. The planned rehabilitation will address the reestablishment of the skylights and facade window with appropriate materials and treatment of the north elevation wall in a manner which will be compatible, in material and color, with the architectural character of the building.

Interior alterations have been minimal with much of the original material being retained. The two story main lobby is elaborate in its decoration. Plaster walls are enriched with wooden pilasters which have plaster capitals. One story height pilasters exhibit scroll capitals while two story height pilasters have heavy gold-leafed egg and dart capitals. The ceiling is paneled into fifteen recessed sections by wood and cast plaster beams. Each section is decorated with egg and dart molding and dentiling. Set into the three central recesses are multi-paned skylights surrounded by an elaborate gold-leafed garland. (These

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First National Bank

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skylights were enclosed in 1951). A pediment is located above the main entrance. On the west wall, the doorway of the vault (Diebold Safe) is framed by pilasters and a broken pediment made of cast plaster. The original teller cages and counters were replaced in 1951. Wainscoting was also installed at this time. The original metal grille safety door separates the main lobby from the rear offices.

A mezzanine projects over the west (rear) wall of the lobby. It is supported by paneled pillars with plaster capitals. The balustrade is enriched with the Constantinian Monogram. The rear wall consists of a modified Palladian window with a multi-light glass and paneled door to each side. The doors and window originally opened into an upper story office.

A storage room and two offices are located to the rear of the main lobby. These offices were altered in 1973 with the addition of wallpaper, paneling, and dropped ceilings. The second floor of the bank consists of a lounge/restroom area (originally an office) and a conference room. Although the lounge area has undergone many changes, the doorways and window of the original office space have been retained. The conference room retains its original door, windows, chair rail, and baseboards. New lighting fixtures were installed in 1973. Commercial carpeting is found throughout the bank.

Despite the alterations which have occurred, the basic plan of the bank's interior has been retained. Interior rehabilitation designs are scheduled to include retention of features which are important to the character of the bank as well as paint colors and carpeting appropriate to the building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1920-1936 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First National Bank of Dickson (1920) is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C for its architectural style and its association with the field of banking in Dickson, Dickson County, Tennessee. Architecturally the bank is significant for its Neo-Classical design, highlighted by a two story portico with Tuscan columns and elaborate moldings. The interior displays pilasters enriched with gold-leaf capitals and a paneled ceiling. Soon after it was founded the bank began to establish a strong community-based image by initiating and participating in local activities. The building, which continues to serve the banking needs of Dickson, remains an important architectural resource for both the town and county.

In 1903 the City of Dickson had a population of 1,363, the majority of whom depended on the railroad and timber business for a livelihood. The Dickson Bank and Trust Company, established in 1890, served the banking needs of many of Dickson's citizens. However, there was a great need for a bank which would operate under federal regulations and be inspected regularly by the United States Comptroller of the Currency. With this knowledge in hand, J.A. Myatt and Pitt Henslee convinced many of their friends and fellow businessmen that such a bank would succeed in Dickson. The first shareholders meeting took place on July 21, 1903, with representatives present from the railroad, lumber business, mercantile establishments, and farming community. Capital stock was placed at \$25,000.00 with those shareholders holding \$1,000.00 in stock serving as bank directors. On August 19, 1903, the First National Bank of Dickson was chartered by the United States government. Under the direction of the bank's first president, Pitt Henslee, First National grew rapidly. Henslee, who had served as a Representative in the Tennessee State Legislature (1899-1903) and was later appointed to Governor A.H. Roberts' staff, was a well-respected businessman who believed the bank should become a major force in the development of the city of Dickson. Henslee immediately began to establish a strong community-based image of the First National Bank of Dickson by involving the bank in local activities.

The original building burned in 1905 and by May 1919 the building then occupied by the bank had become inadequate in serving the needs of the growing financial institution. The building lot adjacent to the bank was available for purchase and the Board of Directors unanimously approved such a purchase. A three member committee composed of Jeff Johnson, Dan Beasley, and J.A. Myatt was appointed to study the need for a modern banking facility. A floor plan was brought before the Board of Directors in October 1919 and was approved with few alterations. The estimated cost of the building was \$20,000.00. Although the building was of solid brick construction, the facade was to be of Indiana limestone in the Neo-Classical style with monumental columns. The interior decor also followed a Neo-Classical motif.

After the construction of the present downtown building in 1920, the bank's capital reached \$100,000.00; deposits were more than \$1 million. Bank president Graham Robertson not only trained the bank staff in what to do in case of a robbery, but he opened the bank after the evening meal in order to better serve the farmers of Dickson County. This practice continued until 1930. Throughout the 1920s, the First National Bank of Dickson assisted in the growth

9. Major Bibliographical References

Davis, Louise Littleton. The First Seventy-Five. 1978.

First National Bank Minute Book. Located at the Main Office of First National Bank in Dickson, Tennessee.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Dickson, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	4	6	5	0	0	0	3	9	9	2	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cate Hamilton, Project Manager

organization Downtown Dickson Development Corporation date November 25, 1985

street & number 106 North Main Street telephone 615-446-5155

city or town Dickson state Tennessee

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Haysen

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 2/5/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John Alloush Byers
Keeper of the National Register

~~REGISTERED BY THE~~
REGISTERED BY THE

date 3-13-86

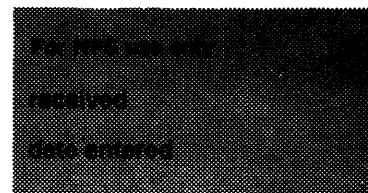
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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of Dickson

of the community. The bank worked with Future Farmers of America and the University of Tennessee to improve farming methods, as well as to educate farmers in the services of the bank. The First National Bank of Dickson not only encouraged area farmers, but supported the Boy Scouts, Parent-Teacher Associations in county schools, and encouraged the location of industry in Dickson and the surrounding area.

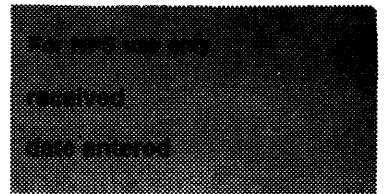
First National continued to grow as a strong financial institution. After the stock market crash in 1929, the bank maintained strict regulations for the issuance of loans and dismissed several staff members. In 1933 the bank became the depositor for the receipts of Citizens National Bank, which had been founded in 1906. The bank's annual report of 1934 once again indicated deposits of more than a million dollars.

In 1941 First National was recognized as a sound banking institution by The Mid-Continent Banker, a banking magazine, and WSM-Radio in Nashville. According to the media, First National not only offered a safe depository for the community's money but was also able to ascertain the financial needs of Dickson in relation to the extension of credit. Over the years, community-related activities included working cooperatively with the University of Tennessee agricultural department and area farmers, the organization of plans for peace-time mobilization (World War I), and establishing the organization "Friends of Dickson County Schools." Recently, First National Bank assumed an active role in the revitalization program for downtown Dickson.

Throughout the years First National Bank has remained one of Dickson's most significant structures. Few alterations have been made to the building and it retains its early twentieth century architectural character. Future plans for the building include restoration of the facade, redesigning the north elevation to be compatible with the historic character of the building, and rehabilitation of the interior.

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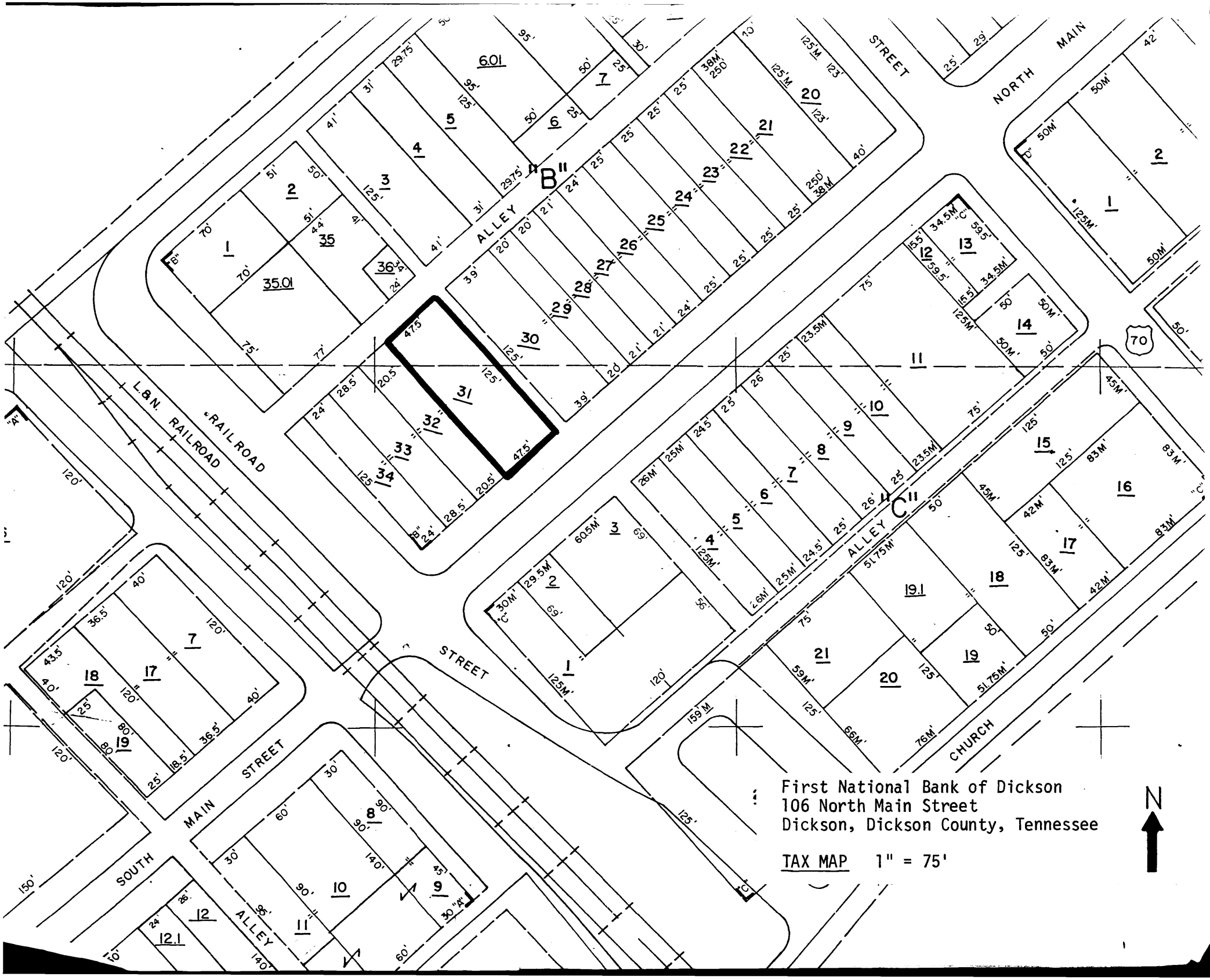
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The nominated property is rectangular in shape and less than one acre in size. It occupies townlot number 31, group B, tax map 103 NM for Dickson, Tennessee. It is bounded on the east by Main Street and on the south, west, and north by adjoining property lines. This includes all land historically associated with the First National Bank of Dickson. (See tax map)



First National Bank of Dickson
106 North Main Street
Dickson, Dickson County, Tennessee

TAX MAP 1" = 75'

