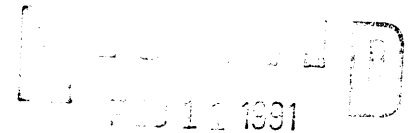


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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old First National Bank of Punta Gorda
other names/site number Old Merchants Bank of Punta Gorda/8CH230

2. Location

street & number 133 West Marion Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Punta Gorda N/A vicinity
state Florida code FL county Charlotte code FL 015 zip code 33951

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Punta Gorda Multiple Property Group
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Suzanne P. Walker (deputy)
Date: 1/14/91
Florida Dept. of State-Bureau of Historic Preservation

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)
Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper: Allan Byers
Date of Action: 3/14/91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/ financial
institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/office building

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof OTHER/tar and gravel
other CONCRETE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Please see continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1912-1929

Significant Dates

1912, 1929

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Please see continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see cover nomination.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

17	39	5	70	10
----	----	---	----	----

29	79	5	00
----	----	---	----

 Zone Easting Northing

C

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--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Punta Gorda BLK 33 LT 4 LESS W 14 FT

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the legal boundary historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tulie W. Taylor, Historic Sites Specialist Gladys Cook, Consultant
 organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 28, 1990
 street & number 500 S. Bronough St. telephone (904) 487-2333
 city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32309

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Old First National Bank Building

DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Old First National Bank Building, located at 133 West Marion Avenue in Punta Gorda, Florida, is a masonry, two story Neo-Classical style building. Built circa 1912, it contributes to the Punta Gorda Multiple Property Group under Associated Property Type, Buildings of Punta Gorda, 1884-1930, and is an example of the subtype, Commercial Architecture. A non-contributing one story, stucco garage was built on the back lot of the property in 1985.

SETTING

The Old First National Bank Building is located in the middle of a block of abutting commercial buildings that were built during the Florida Land Boom. (Photo 16.) The commercial block sits directly across Marion Avenue from the former site of the Punta Gorda Hotel, which was built in 1887 to accommodate wealthy northern tourists. The hotel burned in 1959.

The area around the Old First National Bank remains a commercial district, though most of the historic commercial buildings have been drastically altered in the last 10 years. Across Marion Avenue, a shopping center now occupies the former site of the Punta Gorda Hotel.

DESCRIPTIVE STATEMENT

The Old First National Bank Building is a two story, masonry Neo-Classical style building located at 133 West Marion Avenue in downtown Punta Gorda, Florida. Constructed around 1912, the building is rectangular in plan and has a flat, built up roof. The facade has a straight parapet roofline with a central pediment and the front entrance is flanked by large columns 16 feet in height. The side elevations abut adjacent commercial buildings. (Photos 1 - 2.)

The walls of the building are 12 inches thick and the ceilings are 16 feet high. On the interior, the original marble teller counters, marble floors, bank vault and brick fireplace remain intact. (Photos 3 - 11.)

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Old First National Bank Building

ALTERATIONS

In the 1980s, the wood sash windows in the facade were replaced with aluminum frame windows. (Photos 1 - 2.) A one story, open porch (lanai) was attached to the back of the building and a wrought iron fence was placed at the south end (back entrance) of the property. (Photos 13 - 15.) The front part of the interior, where the old marble teller cages are located, remains intact and is now used as an office area by the owner. (Photos 3 - 4.) The rest of the building has been adapted for use as the owner's residence, but retains the original scale, materials, workmanship, and setting of the historic bank building. (Photos 8 - 12.)

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

During the 1980s, a one story, stucco garage was constructed on the back lot of the property. (Photo 15.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Old First National Bank Building

SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Old First National Bank Building, at 133 West Marion Avenue, is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the development of the early 20th century business community of Punta Gorda. Built circa 1912, it contributes to the Punta Gorda Multiple Property Group under Associated Historic Context: Exploration, Settlement and Early Development of Punta Gorda, 1884-1930, and Associated Property Type: Buildings of Punta Gorda, 1884-1930. The two story Neo-Classical building is a good example of the subtype, Commercial Architecture.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Old First National Bank Building, at 133 West Marion Avenue, is located in the downtown commercial area of Punta Gorda, Florida. Constructed circa 1912, it is a two story, masonry Neo-Classical commercial building. The bank was state chartered in 1912 under the name of Merchants Bank of Punta Gorda. It was the second bank to open in Punta Gorda, preceded only by the Punta Gorda Bank. In 1914, it switched to a federal charter and became the First National Bank of Punta Gorda. By 1927, it was the most prosperous of the three banks located in the city.

The collapse of the Florida Land Boom in 1926 deflated land values and set off a state-wide financial crisis. In 1929, all three banks located in Punta Gorda failed. Throughout the state that year, a total of 9 federally chartered banks and 43 state chartered banks closed. The Old First National Bank of Punta Gorda did not reopen.

The bank building is significant for its role in the development of commercial business in Punta Gorda. During the 1920s, Punta Gorda, like other areas of Florida, underwent a period of rapid growth. Tourism, fishing, and agriculture were major sources of income for the local population. The Old First National Bank was a leader in meeting the financial needs of the local business community.

Today, the Old First National Bank Building is the oldest extant bank building in Charlotte County. In addition, it is one of the few commercial buildings in Punta Gorda which retains its historic integrity.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

Old First National Bank Building

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Old First National Bank Building
2. Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida
3. Hugh C. MacGibbon, III
4. December 1990
5. Hugh C. MacGibbon, 133 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, FL
6. Front elevation, camera facing southwest
7. Photo 1

Items 1 - 5 are the same for photographs 1 - 15.

6. Front elevation, camera facing southwest
7. Photo 2

6. Interior, marble teller cages, camera facing northwest
7. Photo 3

6. Interior, marble teller cages, camera facing northwest
7. Photo 4

6. Interior, marble teller cages, camera facing south
7. Photo 5

6. Interior, marble teller cages, camera facing north
7. Photo 6

6. Interior, marble wainscotting, camera facing northeast
7. Photo 7

6. Interior, vault door, camera facing southwest
7. Photo 8

6. Interior, view of vault interior, camera facing southwest
7. Photo 9

6. Interior, old file room door, camera facing southwest
7. Photo 10

6. Interior, brick fireplace, camera facing south
7. Photo 11

6. Interior, cedar staircase, camera facing north
7. Photo 12

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 2 Old First National Bank Building

6. Rear elevation, camera facing northeast
7. Photo 13

6. Sidewalk along side of garage, camera facing northeast
7. Photo 14

6. Garage building, camera facing northeast
7. Photo 15

1. Old First National Bank Building
2. Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida
3. Jennifer D. Worden
4. October 1990
5. Punta Gorda Planning Dept., Punta Gorda, Florida
6. Streetscape of 100 Block of W. Marion Ave., camera facing southeast
7. Photo 16

HERALD COURT

SITE PLAN

Old First National Bank
Punta Gorda, Florida

Drawn to scale

< 1 = angle of photo and photo number

SCALE: 1" = 20'
(PLAN IS TO SCALE)

VINE-COVERED
WROUGHT-IRON
FENCE WITH
SOLAR-POWERED
GATE.

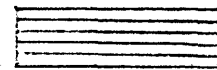
DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTED
OF RECLAIMED BRICKS
FROM PUNTA GORDA STREETS

GARDEN AREA

ROUGH-SAWN CEDAR
W/ FIBERGLASS ROOF

Contributing Building

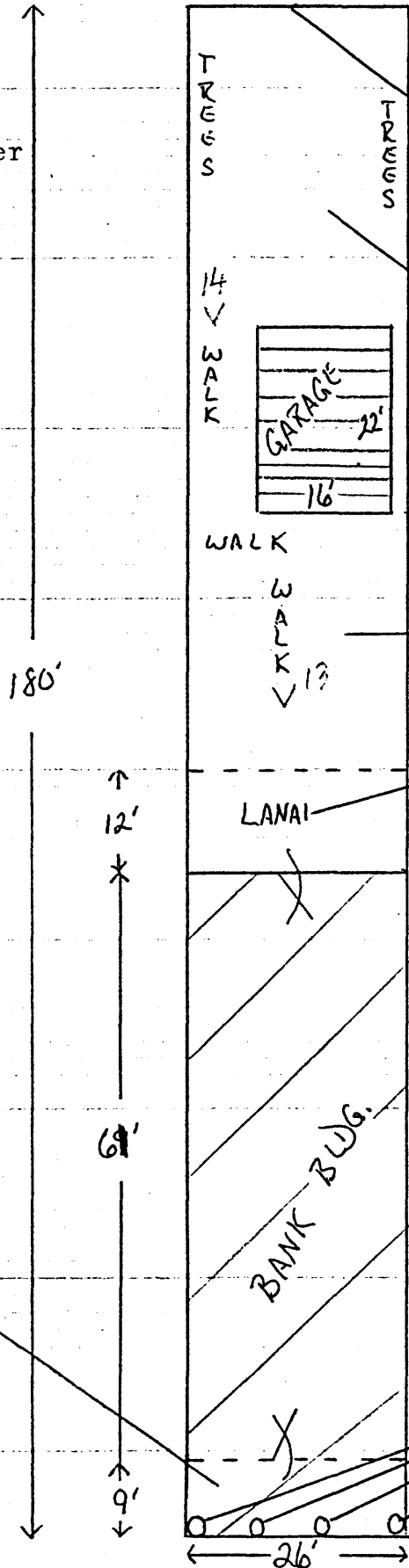
Non-Contributing Building



NORTH

16' HIGH COLUMNS

TILED
ENTRY
PORCH
W/TIN
CEILING



(U.S. 17.5) 133 WEST MARION AVENUE, PUNTA GORDA, FLA 33951-1111

INTERIOR PLAN -- Drawn to scale

< 1 = angle of photo and photo number

Old First National Bank
Punta Gorda, Florida

1ST FLOOR

NORTH

2ND FLOOR LOFT AREA

