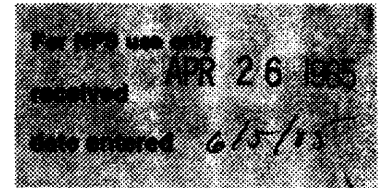


**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Historic Resources of

Continuation sheet Downtown South Bend

Item number

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Citizens Bank
112 W. Jefferson
141-56111-598
D. 1913

OWNER: David Crim
Accounting Officer
National Bank & Trust
112 W. Jefferson
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Description:

Photo #21; Building 11

The Citizens Bank is a six-story commercial building located mid-block on Jefferson between the South Bend Plaza (Michigan Street) and Main Street. Directly east is a small urban, pocket park and to the west is an alley and the Federal Building (Building #26).

The main or north facade and the west facade of the building are faced with white terra-cotta. On the three-bay main facade, a flat portico with two free-standing Ionic columns surround the entryway, which has been modernized with a canopy and a revolving glass and aluminum door.

In addition to the pronounced entrance, the first floor is further distinguished from the floors above by a projecting string course. Pilasters with capitals separate the bays of the second through fifth floors and support a cornice. The top, or sixth, floor has more decorative window treatment, the two end bays being surmounted by projecting window hoods supported by brackets.

The trim of the west facade echoes that of the front except that there are 12 bays instead of three, and the grouping of the windows is different. The windows in the main facade are paired with large single windows on the first floor and bays. Windows on the west facade are paired in the first, sixth, seventh and 12th bays, while there are tripartite windows in the remaining bays. All first floor windows have console bracket keystones. All original windows have been replaced with single pane, anodized aluminum windows.

The east facade has been covered with aluminum siding and brick veneer to cover a party wall scarred by the demolition of the adjoining building.

Significance:

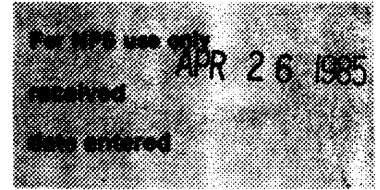
The Citizens Bank Building is an outstanding example of an early 20th century commercial building and one of only a few terra-cotta buildings still existing in downtown South Bend. The building was strongly influence by the Chicago School as evidenced by the pier and spandrel system along with the paired and tripartite window arrangements, and the base, shaft, capital configuration of the facade.

In addition, influence of the 1893 "Great White City" is seen in the use of white terra-cotta and the Neo-classical elements of the portico and columns, the window hoods, and the bracketed cornice line.

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The Citizens Bank, which was founded in 1892, constructed this building in 1913; the back six bays were added in 1923. Subsequent mergers and name changes occurred, resulting in the current name, the National Bank.

The structure was designed by Freyermuth and Maurer, a South Bend firm. George Freyermuth, a native of South Bend, gained his knowledge of architecture from his father, a building contractor. R. Vernon Maurer studied architecture in Chicago and worked there as a draftsman until returning to South Bend in 1895. The firm of Freyermuth and Maurer was formed in 1898 and continued until 1934, when George Freyermuth was elected mayor.

UTM Reference: 16/562360/4613720

Acreage: Less than one acre

Legal:

West 44' of lots 283-284-285 Original Plat South Bend
Parcel #18-3007-0242