

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 7 1985

date entered MAR 7 1985

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

1. Name

historic City National Bank

and/or common First Alabama Bank

2. Location

street & number 2301 University Boulevard NA not for publication

city, town Tuscaloosa NA vicinity of Congressional District 7

state Alabama code 01 county Tuscaloosa code 125

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Security Federal Savings and Loan

street & number 808 Lurleen Wallace North

city, town Tuscaloosa NA vicinity of state Alabama 35401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tuscaloosa County Courthouse

street & number 714 Greensboro Avenue

city, town Tuscaloosa state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The City National Bank, a one-story building, includes a mezzanine, balcony and basement. The structural system appears to be metal trusses with load-bearing masonry walls. The basement is completely below sidewalk level, and its masonry foundation wall is pierced with windows which permit daylight and ventilation into the interior.

The exterior building materials are a base course of granite and a facade of Georgian white marble. The bank building, Classical Revival design, features a pedimented central pavilion, Doric colossal columns, a balustrade, a parapet, pilasters, wrought-iron window grills, and bronze identification plaque.

The built-up flat roof of this corner bank building located on the southwest corner of University Boulevard and 23rd Street, includes ten bays, three on the north facade (main entry) and seven on the east wall (side/rear entry). The north entry is a recessed metal framed plate glass door. The portal marble surround is completed with a cornice treatment. The side/rear entry is a wood framed plate glass door with ventilator.

The wood framed windows that dress the front lower facade are 1/1 sashes; upper facade wood framed windows are 1/1 sashes with ventilators. The lower facade of the east wall displays wood framed 1/1 sashes with side lights; the upper facade displays wood framed 1/1 sashes with side lights, ventilator and corner blocks.

The interior features of this bank include: (1) Fireplace located on the west wall of the mezzanine Board of Directors room, with a French hood, plaster cast ornamented mantel and columns with a red brick surround. (2) Door and wood trim is original except for the entry door. (3) The stairway on the east wall features a closed stringer. (4) The walls are plaster and the ceiling is accented with an ornamented plaster cornice approximately 16" in height. A conference room in the northeast corner of the building is paneled mahogany. (5) The flooring of the entire space is wood. The central lobby of the original bank was covered with marble, but this was removed in the renovation project of the early 1960s. (6) Brass hardware is featured throughout the space. Of special note is the steel vault on the south end of the lobby area.

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 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 April 1922 **Builder/Architect** William Leslie Welton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture, Criterion C

The City National Bank (1922) is Tuscaloosa's best example of privately funded Neo-classical Revival architecture. It is also a good example of the far-reaching influence of the prestigious architectural firm of McKim, Meade and White on civic buildings throughout the United States during the early twentieth century. The City National Bank was designed by William L. Welton who was a draftsman for McKim, Meade and White between 1902 and 1905. The building exhibits features typical of McKim, Meade and White classicism including a strict adherence to classical scale and order (Doric) as well as the use of classical decorative features and building materials (marble).

* * * * *

Historical Development

The City National Bank Building is an important example of downtown monumental buildings (Federal Building - 1910, 2200 University Boulevard the other) in the academic Classical Revival design. This complex was third in a sequence of four distinguished main office buildings that have served this bank. J. H. Fitts and Company was nationalized in 1902 and became known as City National Bank; in 1975 City National Bank joined Alabama Bankshares and is known today as First Alabama Bank of Tuscaloosa. Several men of local and regional significance have been associated with this particular third main office. They are members of Alston/Fitts family, Robert Cochran, S. F. Clabaugh and more recently Lloyd Wood.

J. H. Fitts (1836-1912) founder of the bank, was a multifaceted business person and a civic/church leader. Most noted was his accomplishment in handling the financial affairs of the University of Alabama, without whose guidance, especially following the Civil War, recovery for this institution would have been prolonged. Mr. Fitts made several marks in Alabama's financial history as one of two attorneys responsible for closing the State Bank of Alabama for the State Assembly in the 1850s, comptroller for the Confederacy in Alabama, and first President of the Alabama Bankers Association.

W. G. P. Harding was a noted historical employee of J. H. Fitts and Company. Leaving the company in 1889 Harding wrote in his ledger, "Here ends my bank career. In Boligee I'll dwell, and brushing back a tear I bid you all farewell." Not being "farsighted" about his banking future--Mr. Harding later became head of the U. S. Federal Reserve System.

A third person of historical significance to this bank was S. F. Clabaugh who was a vice-president in 1922. Other leadership positions of Mr. Clabaugh included the establishment of the Tuscaloosa News, Post Master of Tuscaloosa, V-P of the Alabama Bankers Association, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and First Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Tuscaloosa Hospital.

(continued on continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

"City National Bank." The Bankers Magazine. Vol. CV. Boston: The Banking Publishing Co., July 1922.
Clinton, Matthew. Scrapbook. Tuscaloosa: B. B. Clinton, M. W. Clinton, 1979.
"Obituary." Birmingham News. 6 October 1934.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Tuscaloosa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	4	4	7	1	6	0	3	6	7	4	5	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of lot 165 of the Original City Survey, measuring 41.25 feet on University Boulevard and 89.25 feet on 23rd Avenue

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Betsy Hayslip, Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County, & Tom Dolan

organization Alabama Historical Commission date May, 1984

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama 36130

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 29, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3-7-85


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

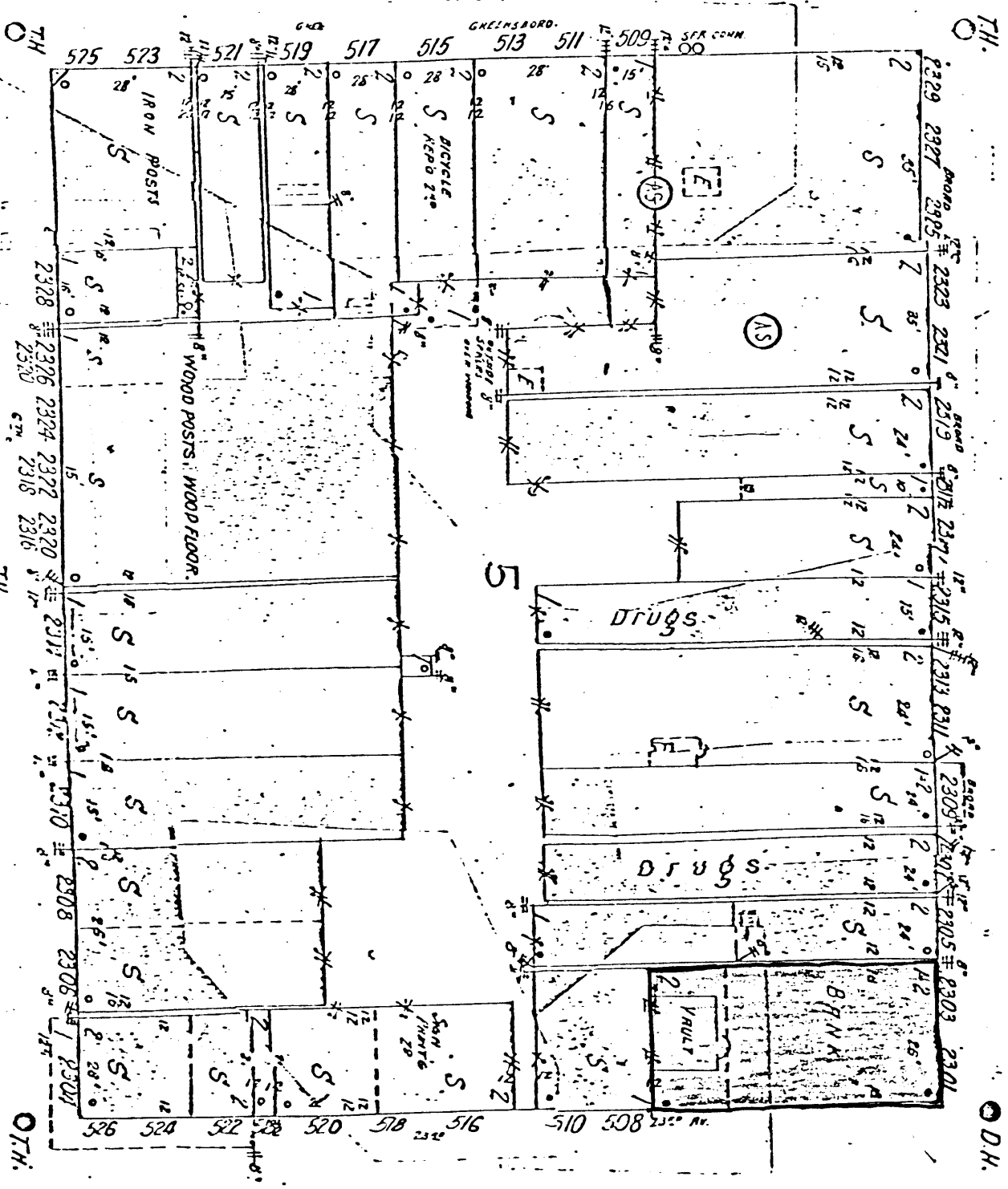
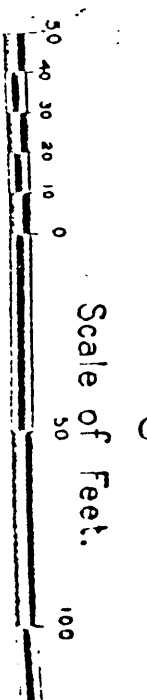
The architect chosen by City National Bank was William Leslie Welton, who was born in Pawnee County, Nebraska in 1874. His first training in the field of architecture was at the Masechuttes Institute of Technology in the late 1890s. He studied there under the special instruction of Professor Desire Despradelles. Welton then studied under Professors Fox and Newton at the Boston Society of Architects. In 1900 he won the Boston Society of Architects Rotch Travel Scholarship which allowed him two years of travel and study at the Paris Ecole des Beaux-Arts. From 1903 to 1905 Welton was a draftsman in the firm of McKim, Meade and White. During Welton's tenure at McKim, Meade and White the Knickerbocker Trust Company was drawn and executed. History records that the Knickerbocker building was the prototype of Classical Revival-Beaux Arts bank buildings. Completing this understudy, Welton moved to Birmingham, Alabama where he remained the rest of his life.

GREENSBORO

8" W.P.

8" W. PIPE
8" W. PIPE

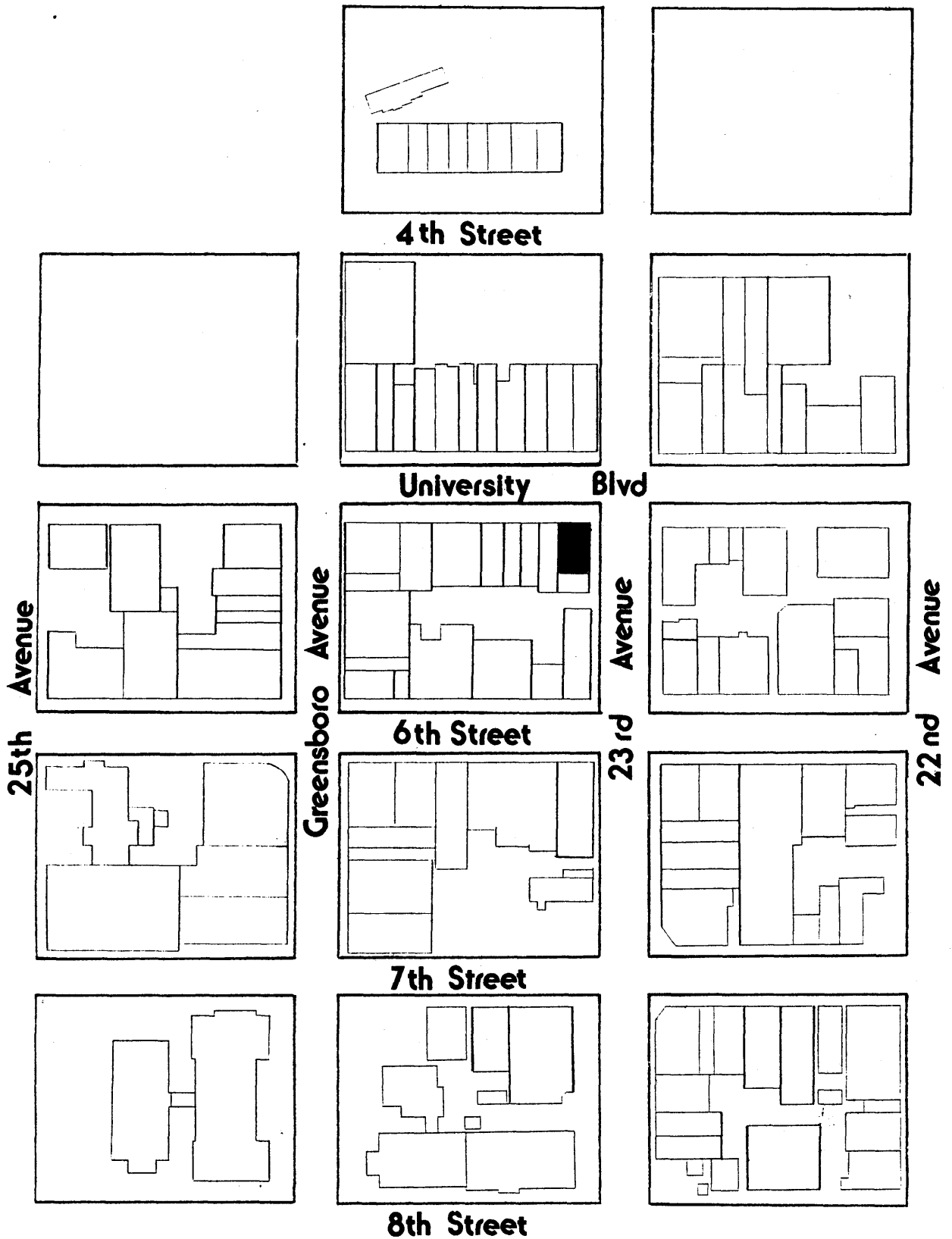
2" W. PIPE
90°
12" W. PIPE



SANDBORN MAP 1922 (updated 1933)

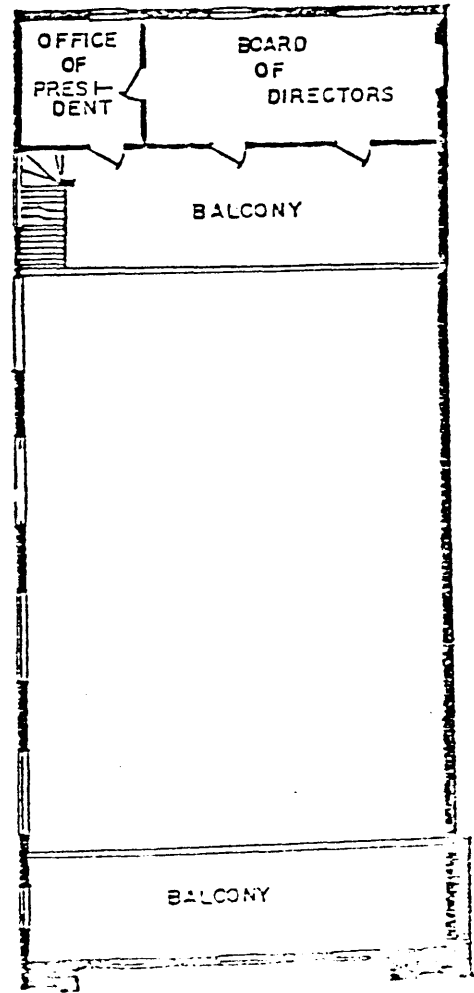
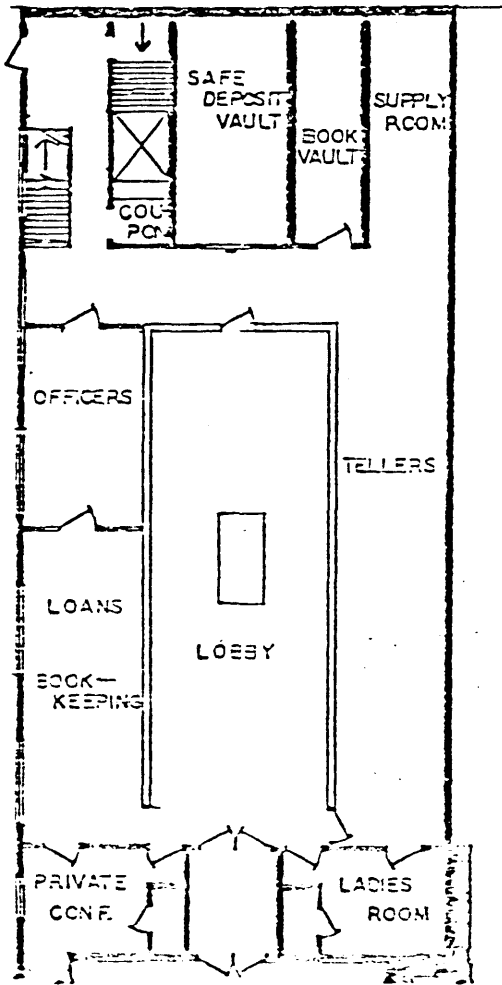
6" W.P.

6" W. PIPE
100' D.



City National Bank-Security Federal Savings & Loan
 2301 University Blvd
 Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Lot #165 Property bounded on the north by University Blvd
 & by 23rd Ave on the east



Floor Plan of the City National Bank