

PH0034177

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Muscogee
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
First National Bank (Broadway Branch)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Bank of Columbus

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1048 Broadway

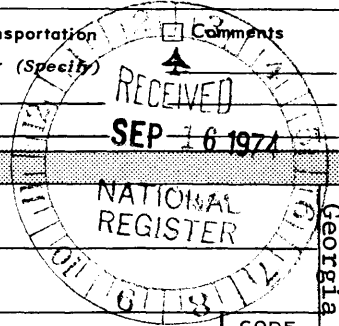
CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
3rd - Jack Brinkley

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Muscogee CODE: 215

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
First National Bank

STREET AND NUMBER:
101 13th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Deed Books - Columbus Government Center

STREET AND NUMBER:
10th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Columbus Building Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: June 1, 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Columbus Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:
716 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

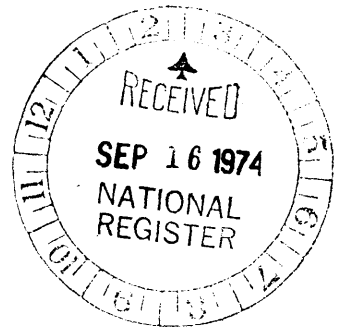
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First National Bank (Broadway Branch) of Columbus, an Italian Renaissance style cast iron building, was erected shortly after 1860 by William H. Young and is the largest cast iron building in the state.

This three story structure's design, two facades of which are cast iron, is based on a repeated round arch window unit detailed with an acanthus leaf key block in the center and a fluted Corinthian engaged column on each side. The size of this arched window unit decreases in width on each higher floor. Each floor's entablature varies also: the first floor with a dentil-design; the second with a series of panelled blocks, and the third with a bracketed composition. The asymmetrical main entrance, placed near the end of the 138 foot 6 inch north side of the building consists of a broken segmental arch that is supported by two fluted Corinthian columns. The door frame features an elaborate round arch with a lunette on either side of the door that is supported by small Corinthian columns. The west facade, 50 feet 2 inches long, features the identical design. These two facades described are the only cast iron ones, the inner and rear walls being constructed of brick.

There have been very few basic changes in the exterior of the bank since its construction 114 years ago. The windows on the upper stories were changed from two half arches that met in the center of the window with a circle at the joint of the two arches to plain louvered windows after the fire of 1957.

Because this fire completely gutted the interior of the bank leaving only the cast iron shell standing, the interior has been completely remodeled for use by the First National Bank of Columbus.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1860

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First National Bank (Broadway Branch) of Columbus, built for the Bank of Columbus by William H. Young, is the largest cast iron building in the state. This cast iron structure, a product of the advancing nineteenth century technological development, was built c.1860, a date which is especially important as it signifies the presence of sophistication equal to that of the New York cast iron architecture of Daniel Badger and James Bogardus of almost the same time period.

The idea of supporting galleries or stairs in a building with iron beams had been popular in Europe as early as the late eighteenth century. However, the methods for casting enough iron to make the construction of a building like the First National Bank of Columbus possible were not developed until the nineteenth century. The Crystal Palace, built in 1851 by Sir Joseph Paxton for the Great Exhibition of 1851, was the first of these large cast iron buildings in Europe. In its design and construction the basic principle of the modular pre-fabricated unit composed of standard parts was set.

In America the use of cast iron in buildings was not extensive until the 1840's when Ammi B. Young used it in the Custom Houses that he designed for the U.S. Government. By 1860, when this cast iron building for the Bank of Columbus was built, the American contribution to cast iron architecture of combining the cast iron front with the cast iron cage had reached its peak. From New York and Pittsburgh, where this building was supposedly cast, among other cities these buildings were shipped all over the country in sections. The First National Bank building is designed in the more conservative Venetian Palazzo style of the Haughwout Building on Broadway and Broome Street in lower Manhattan, cast in 1857 by (Daniel Badger) who was one of the many foundry operators in mid-nineteenth century New York, rather than the simpler style of the Edgar Laing Stores on Washington and Murray Streets in lower Manhattan, cast in 1849 by James Bogardus who was one of Badger's chief rivals.

This cast iron building was built for the Bank of Columbus at a cost of \$50,000. The Bank began acquiring the land along Broadway that the building stands on as early as 1856, owning the whole block by 1860. The Bank of Columbus operated in this building between 1860 and 1866, when it appears to have declared bankruptcy. The building was bought at auction in 1869 for \$28,000 by the Georgia Home Insurance Company which appears to have operated an insurance company and a bank in the building through the 1870's. Since

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Biggers, Mrs. James J. W., First draft for National Register Nomination form, August 18, 1973.
2. "Columbus and Montgomery," The Columbus Enquirer, September 25, 1860, page 3, column 1.
3. Historic Savannah. Savannah, Ga.: Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

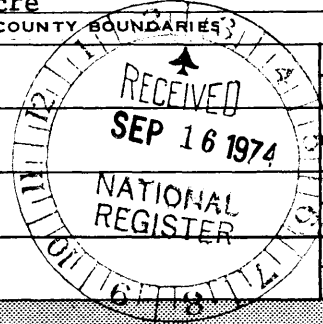
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		32 0 27. 52.	84 0 59 . 34 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

UTM
16/682590
3593510
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian
Carole Stevens, Staff Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept of Natural Resources DATE: 6/19/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 270 Washington Street, SW

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia 30334 CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Joe D. James
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: September 6, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Warburton
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/6/74

ATTEST:
Wm. S. ...
Keeper of The National Register
Date: 10-29-74

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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Muscogee	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

then it has been used by a number of banks. The building is still used as a bank, now owned by the First National Bank of Columbus which acquired it through a series of mergers and purchases.

As with many other towns, neighborhood shopping centers have reduced the economy of Columbus' downtown district. There have been many plans proposed to give a new sense of vitality to this area. The latest plan to revitalize downtown Columbus suggests that this building be torn down and replaced with a modern civic center. The historic First National Bank building desperately needs the prestige and protection that being on the National Register of Historic Places will afford it. According to a recently passed zoning law, any building accepted by the National Register will be given "Landmark" status locally which means that all alterations, improvements, partial demolitions, etc., will be subject to review by the local Board of Historic and Architectural Review.

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

- 4. Martin, John. H., Columbus, Georgia, From Its Selection as a "Trading Town" in 1827, to Its Partial Destruction by Wilson's Raiders, in 1865. History-Incident-Personality. Part II-1846 to 1865. Columbus, Georgia: Thos. Gilbert, Printer & Book-Binder, 1875. (reprint, Easley, S. C.: Georgia Genealogical Reprints, 1972), p.188.
- 5. Stevens, Carole A., James Bogardus and Cast Iron Architecture, August 14, 1971, on file at Department of Natural Resources.
- 6. Telfair, Nancy, A History of Columbus, Georgia, 1828-1928. Columbus: The Historical Publishing Company, 1929, pages 198-199.
- 7. Waite, Diana S., ed., Architectural Elements: The Technological Revolution. Princeton: The Pyne Press, 1972. (The Buffalo Eagle Iron Works Catalogue of Architectural Designs, 1859, and Philadelphia Architectural Iron Company, 1872), p.6 (Introduction)
- 8. Worsley, Etta Blanchard, Columbus on the Chattahoochee. Columbus: Columbus Office Company, 1951, pages 261 & 382.

