

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 28 1986
date entered JUN 26 1986

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

1. Name

historic Bank of Alamo
and/or common The Old Bank of Alamo Building

2. Location

street & number 103 South Bells Street N/A not for publication
city, town Alamo N/A vicinity of
state Tennessee code 047 county Crockett code 033

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mary Jo Myhr
street & number 2157 Massey Road
city, town Memphis N/A vicinity of state TN 38119

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Crockett County Courthouse
street & number Courthouse Square
city, town Alamo state TN 38001

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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bank of Alamo is a two story, rectangular brick building with limestone trim. The 1912 Neo-Classical building is located on the southwest corner of South Bells and Main Street on the public square in Alamo, Tennessee, a small town with a population of 2,615.

The main (east) facade of the Bank of Alamo fronts on South Bells Street and is dominated by the Neo-Classical limestone trim. The entrance consists of a modified stepped reveal architrave with a cornice supported on either end by scroll brackets. Surmounting the cornice is a stone wreath with a convex medallion center and acanthus leaves on each side. Under the cornice is a stone tablet engraved with "Bank of Alamo." The original wood frame door was replaced in the early 1950's by the present glass and aluminum door and frame. The windows on the lower level of the main facade are surrounded by wide shouldered architrave trim and have a continuous stone sill. The wood frame windows consist of a large single pane of glass and a two-light transom. There are three window openings on the second story that keep the symmetry of the first floor. The center opening contains two double-hung 1/1 windows while the side opening each consist of a single double-hung window. The window surrounds on the second story are corbelled brick that mimic the shouldered architrave trim of the first floor windows. The windows have limestone sills. A cornice with classical molding and dentils projects from the building between the second story windows and the limestone capped parapet roof.

The north facade of the bank is similar in appearance to the main facade. The first three windows on the lower level from the northeast corner have the same limestone trim as those on the east facade. An entrance immediately south of the three windows has a simple limestone surround. The exterior trim on these first few openings convey the interior's function or use as part of the bank lobby. There are two other entrances on the Main Street facade. These have corbelled brick surrounds that mimic the shouldered architrave trim of the limestone surrounds, as do the remainder of the windows on the first and second stories. The projecting cornice extends the length of the entire facade.

The rear facade of the building is utilitarian in design with three double-hung windows and a single entrance.

The interior of the building retains much of its original integrity. In the bank lobby the original mosaic tile floor, embossed tin ceiling, window trim, and vault remain. The ceramic mosaic floor tile has a repetitive design pattern in several different colors, using circles, hexagonal stones and abstract shapes. The pressed tin ceiling consists of alternating square panels with plain centers and centers with wreaths. The square panels are surrounded by border and cornice panels. The original mahogany and rosewood teller's cages were replaced in the early 1950's by the present marble faced teller's counters. Marble wainscoting and a small room divider at the rear of the lobby appear to have been added at the same time. Located behind the lobby is the original director's room.

The hall and four of the six offices on the second floor were paneled and carpeted in the early 1950's. The two remaining offices retain their original hardwood floors, window trim, and plaster walls.

Currently the building is being used for office space and is in the process of being renovated. Plans are underway to repair and paint the walls of both the first and second floors.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bank of Alamo is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural style. The Neo-Classical style is exemplified by the shouldered architrave limestone window surrounds, the limestone door surround with scroll brackets and cornice, and the limestone cornice on the exterior and by the pressed tin ceiling, mosaic tile floor, and window trim on the interior.

The Bank of Alamo was founded in 1902 amid skepticism and opposition. The bank also received its state charter in the same year. From 1902 until 1912 the bank was located in rental space on the south side of the courthouse square in Alamo. In 1912 the bank purchased a lot at the southwest corner of Bells and Main streets and built the present Neo-Classical Revival structure.

The first officers of the bank were W.W. Craig, President; C.H. Ferrell, Vice-President; and D.B. Dobson, Cashier. The Board of Directors included C.H. Conley, H.B. Nance, Mrs. S.E. Johnson, J.H. Chandler, Mrs. W.H. McKnight, J.M. Senter, J.C. Jarriel, and T.H. Avery. The board members and officers of the bank represented a broad spectrum of the community and were influential in its development. J.M. Senter was an attorney from Humboldt, Tennessee, T.H. Avery served as sheriff of the county, C.H. Conley was an influential farmer, W.W. Craig served in the State Legislature, H.B. Nance was a local merchant, and J.C. Jarriel a manufacturer. These men were successful in the local and regional business community and made the first days deposit of \$2,297.93.

When the Bank of Alamo was founded in 1902 the town's population was 500, with the coming of the railroad both the town and bank grew and prospered. Crockett County was and still is an agricultural center which produces more cotton per acre than any other county in the state. The Bank of Alamo, located in the county seat has been an important factor in the development of the farm economy of Crockett County and Middle Tennessee.

The bank's growth continued during the 1930's with it becoming a member of the FDIC. During the 1940's the bank contributed to the establishment and development of practically all of the local businesses that continue today including R.L. Rank's Alamo Furniture Company, the Alamo Variety Store, the City Cafe, the Alamo Construction Company and the Alamo Development Corporation which included the Powell Corsett Company (later a division of Kellwood Corporation a Sears Company) which was the first textile factory in Crockett County.

In 1964 the Bank of Alamo moved into a new building across the street, since that time the building has served as office space for a variety of businesses.

The Bank of Alamo is one of the most significant buildings in Alamo, a small town of 2,615. The bank has had only minor alterations to the exterior and retains its integrity as an early twentieth century building. Current plans for the building include rehabilitating the interior in keeping with its historical integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Alamo Signal, various issues 1903.
Crane, Sophie, and Crane, Paul. Tennessee Taproots. Old Hickory, Tennessee: Earle-Shields Publishers, 1926.
The Crockett Times, various issues 1927, 1952.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Alamo, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	0	8	6	4	0	3	9	5	1	9	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 Zeno Yeates, Architect, L.B. Myhr, Inc./Mary Jo Myhr

organization Yeates-Gaskill-Rhodes Architects

date May, 1986

street & number 2080 Peabody Avenue

telephone (901) 274-0633

city or town Memphis

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. Myer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 5/23/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 6-26-86

for *[Signature]*
Keeper of the National Register

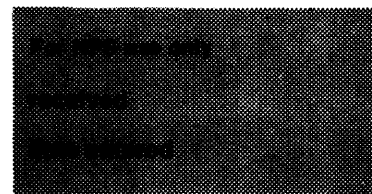
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Bank of Alamo Item number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is rectangular in shape and less than one acre in size. It is located on the west side of the public square and the south side of West Main Street, bounded on the north by West Main Street; on the west by an alley across which lies the property on which is located the City Hall of the Town of Alamo; on the south by a lot owned by LaVenue (formerly Freeman), and on the east by the public square; fronting on the public square 20.5 feet and running west between parallel lines 85 feet to said alley. This includes all property historically associated with the Bank of Alamo. (See tax map)

E1,073,250

E1,074,500

E1,075,000

E1,075,500

PREPARED BY
L. ROBERT KIMBALL
Consulting Engineer
 EBENSBERG, PENNSYLVANIA

1. PARCEL NUMBER
 2. INTEREST
 3. TAX MAP REFERENCE
 4. ZONING DISTRICT
 5. SECTION CORNER

21. DATE OF CONTROL MAP
 22. DATE OF REVISION
 23. DATE OF REVISION
 24. DATE OF REVISION
 25. DATE OF REVISION

CHECK ONE
 ORIGINAL
 REVISION
 CORRECTION
 AMENDMENT
 SUPPLEMENT

56-4-8
56-4-8
56-4-8
56-4-8
56-4-8

REVISIONS

1-10-74	12/85
1-11-76	
1-10-79	
12/81	
3/82	

CROCKETT ALAMO
 CO
 50
 MAY 1985
 17 JAN 1970

Bank of Alamo
 103 South Bell's Street
 Alamo, Crockett County, Tennessee
TAX MAP 1" = 50'

