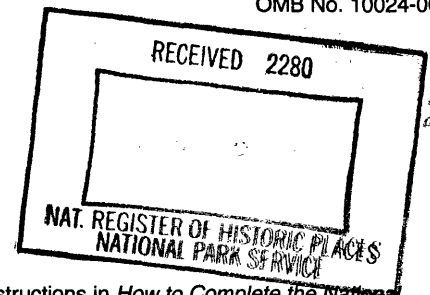


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First National Bank of Layton

other name/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & town 50 West Gentile Street  not for publication

city or town Layton  vicinity

state Utah code UT county Davis code 011 zip code 84041

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Walter S. Mott SHPO 2/21/2006  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4.5.06

First National Bank of Layton  
Name of Property

Layton, Davis County, Utah  
City, County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- public-local
- private
- public-State
- public-Federal

- district
- building(s)
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: office building

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

VACANT

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Other: One-part commercial block

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

foundation STONE & CONCRETE

walls BRICK

\_\_\_\_\_

roof BUILT-UP

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

### Narrative Description

The First National Bank of Layton, built in four phases between 1905 and 1945, is a one-part commercial block, located at 50 West Gentile Street in Layton, Utah. The building is brick masonry with stone and concrete foundations. The current roof is flat and built-up. The original bank building, a one-part Victorian-style commercial block with an angled entrance, was constructed in 1905. In October 1906, the building was partially destroyed by a windstorm. Between 1906 and 1907, the bank building was rebuilt using the surviving stone foundation and two brick walls. Most of the Victorian elements of the 1905 building were replicated during the 1906-1907 reconstruction, but the parapet was built higher and other modifications were made. In 1915, the bank building was expanded to the east and a new entrance was built flush with the south elevation and featured stylized classical elements. In 1945, the building was expanded to the east and in the rear, creating a wedge-shaped east elevation that followed the line of Layton's Main Street. The interior of the bank has been remodeled several times, with the extant finishes dating from 1939 to the 1980s. The bank building has been vacant since 2003.

The original 1905 building measured approximately forty-three by twenty-two feet. The longest elevation faced south onto Gentile Street with the shorter end on Main Street. The main entrance was angled and faced southeast toward the intersection.<sup>1</sup> The foundation was rock-faced sandstone. The face brick was laid in a stretcher bond. There was a corbelled brick base with a sandstone stringcourse, which also served as the sill. Historic photographs show the south elevation divided into two bays by brick pilasters. Each bay featured a large plate-glass window with several courses of segmental-arched rowlock brick. A decorative stringcourse highlighted the arched windows. A similar bay was on the east elevation. The angled entrance featured stone steps, double wood-sash doors, with transoms and a segmental-arched hood. Above the fenestration were three corbelled brick courses and a brick parapet with a metal cornice. A decorative block with the date "1905" was above the entrance. The west elevation had a small window near the south end (now filled-in), but otherwise the west and north elevations were blank. On October 20-21, 1906, a windstorm blew in the east window creating a vacuum, which caused the roof to collapse and the south elevation to explode. Between late 1906 and 1907, the bank building was rebuilt using the original foundation and surviving north and west walls. The rebuilt structure was similar in design to the original, but featured a much higher and stronger parapet. The new parapet was completely brick and featured a dog-tooth course above the original corbelling. The brick masonry was reinforced with iron bars and anchors. The sloped roof was reinforced as well.

Between 1915 and 1916, an L-shaped addition was constructed effectively expanding the building twenty feet to the north and twenty-five feet to the east. The addition created a south facing entrance and an extra bay to the east. The addition was designed by the same architect-builder as the original building, and the brickwork is nearly identical. The main difference between the old and new bays is the use of concrete for the foundation and sills, rather than stone, and vents in the dogtooth course. The new steps are also concrete. The new entrance features a slightly projecting surround of cast concrete. The flanking pilasters were banded, as were a dividing mullion and pilasters (with capitals) in the slightly recessed double doors (the mullion was removed in the 1970s). Above the arched opening is a cast concrete panel with the words "First National Bank." These

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<sup>1</sup> The angled entrance was similar to the older Farmers Union Building across the street to the south.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

elements give the building's entrance a stylized classical appearance. The brick parapet was also enlarged in 1915-1916, and with accent block appeared as a classical balustrade. The date "1905" is in a block above the main entrance.

The building was expanded again in 1945-1946. During this phase the east elevation was demolished and the façade was expanded by another bay, which replicated the 1915-1916 addition. A similar, but smaller bay faces east. The remainder of the east elevation addition angles to the northwest along the line of Main Street. The angled wall is constructed of brick on a concrete foundation and features a geometric design of corbelled brickwork. The parapet is plain and has been used as a signboard. There is a simple metal coping along the parapet. The brickwork for the north elevation addition is similar. There are windows (now filled with glass block, date unknown) in the north and west corners of the building, but no other openings. The different building phases are best discerned on the west elevation where the joints between additions are visible. There is a double-door service entrance in the center of the west elevation (probably 1980s). Other modifications to the exterior include the installation of an interior alarm box (circa 1924, south elevation), exterior paint (white in the 1960s and currently tan with darker tan and gold accents), and the removal of the double entrance doors to provide a single glass door into a vestibule (circa 1970s).

The interior of the building has been remodeled several times. The original 1906-1907 interior featured a marble lobby with a pressed-tin ceiling. The vault was built out in the northwest corner. During the 1915-1916 expansion the lobby was not altered but additional vault and office space was added to the rear. The addition included office space for the local sugar company to the east, which had its own vault. In 1939, a major interior remodeling included the removal of the original ceiling and a change to the teller cages. The 1939 interior remodeling had some elements of the Art Deco-style.<sup>2</sup> Further remodeling accompanied the 1945-1946 addition. The banking space was expanded to include the 1915-1916 spaces and the vault was moved to the rear. Decorative plaster work was added to the ceiling and walls of the main banking space (extant). The rear addition included an upper-story accessed by a central closed stair. The rear addition has three rooms (currently finishes from the 1980s) and parts of the 1915-1916 building exterior are visible on the south walls. On the main floor, a wood-paneled board room was installed (extant although slightly damaged). In the northwest corner a kitchenette and restrooms were installed (extant). The glass vestibule was installed in the 1970s and a night depository box was added. There is a wall-mounted safe near the vestibule (date unknown, possibly 1980s). The marble teller counter and the vault doors were relocated to the Farmers' Union Building (listed on the National Register in November 1978) across the street when the bank moved its operations there in 1981. In the bank area, many of 1939-1946 features and finishes have survived. To the east, where the offices were located, most of the current interior finishes date from the 1980s after the bank moved out.

The First National Bank of Layton sits on a wedge-shaped parcel of 0.1779 acres. It is located at the angled corner of Main Street and Gentile Street. There is a sidewalk and planters on Gentile Street, but only a sidewalk on Main Street. A narrow pedestrian alley is located between the bank and the historic building to the west.

<sup>2</sup> The 1939 remodeling included Art Deco-style glass panels above the main doors. Unfortunately, these were removed during the 1970s vestibule installation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 3

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

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There is a small asphalt parking area in the rear (against the north elevation). The bank is one of several historic buildings located in downtown Layton, but most, with the exception of the Farmers Union Building and one general store, have been altered. The First National Bank is in good condition and contributes to the historic resources of Layton, Utah.

First National Bank of Layton  
Name of Property

Layton, Davis County, Utah  
City, County and State

**8. Description**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE \_\_\_\_\_

AGRICULTURE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1905-1956 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1905, 1906-1907, 1915-1916 \_\_\_\_\_

1939, 1945 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

William Allen: Architect & Builder \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 1

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

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## Narrative Statement Of Significance

The First National Bank of Layton, built in phases between 1905 and 1945, is a one-part commercial block in the Victorian Eclectic style. The bank building is significant under Criteria A and C for its association with the development of Layton, and for its association with Davis County's most prominent and prolific architect at the turn of the century, William Allen. In 1905, the First National Bank was the third bank to be established in Davis County and during 2005 celebrated its centennial as the oldest continually operating business in Layton. For a century, the bank has been an integral part of the Layton City and Davis County economies. The bank building includes a 1915-1916 expansion, which provided office space for the Layton Sugar Company, the area's largest employer at the time. During the 1940s, the bank building expanded again mainly due to the rise in population associated with the development of Hill Air Force Base (Hill Field). Between 1905 and 1916, the bank building was designed, constructed and expanded by Davis County's most respected architect, William Allen. William Allen began his career as a brick mason and ended it as a contractor and self-taught architect. He was among the first architects licensed by the State of Utah, and the only licensed architect in Davis County for many years. Of Allen's over one-hundred documented works, six are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and another is pending. The First National Bank of Layton is a contributing historic resource in Layton, Utah.

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## History of the First National Bank of Layton

Layton, Davis County's largest city, was originally an outgrowth of Kaysville, a Mormon pioneer town first settled in 1854. By 1886, a separate precinct and post office were located in a small business center north of Kaysville. The community was named Layton, for Christopher Layton, a prominent early settler of the area. In 1902, the community of Layton legally severed the ties with Kaysville and became an unincorporated area. With a population of 500, Layton was incorporated as a third-class town in 1920. In 1950, after a decade-long boom period which accompanied the development Hill Air Force Base, the population reached 3,456 and Layton was declared a third-class city.

Layton's historic business district is clustered near the intersection of Gentile Street and Main Street, which for many years paralleled the track of the original Utah Central Railroad (the tracks were removed in 1953). The Layton business district was also serviced by the Oregon Short Line (later Union Pacific, 1912-present) on the west side of town and the Bamberger Electric Railway (1906-1952, later obliterated by Interstate 15) east of the commercial district. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Layton's business district included two general stores, a meat market, saloon, coal dealer, blacksmith shop, barber shop, hotel, and the Layton Milling and Elevator Company, which in 1903 shipped more flour than any other Utah mill.<sup>3</sup> Through the first half of the twentieth century, the economy was predominantly agricultural. The most important cash crops were alfalfa, grain, onions, and potatoes. A cannery was built to process tomatoes and peas, and a factory was established in

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<sup>3</sup> Janice P. Dawson, "Layton" in *Utah History Encyclopedia*, edited by Allan Kent Powell, (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1999: 317).

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

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1915 to process sugar beets. The business district was the support and shipping center for products of Layton farmers.

The First National Bank of Layton was established in 1905. At the time it was only the third bank in Davis County, and one of only two national banks that were established that year. The Layton Bank was established during a period of banking expansion that followed the depression years of the mid-1890s. The bank required a \$20,000 minimum of capital in order to comply with Utah's 1888 Banking Act. The original thirty-nine stockholders raised \$25,000 (250 shares of \$100). Most of the stockholders lived in Layton with a few living in the nearby communities of Ogden, Kaysville, Plain City and Syracuse. Among the stockholders were several prominent members of the Ellison family, whose descendants own the original bank building. The first officers of the bank were James Pingree, President; E. P. (Ephraim Peter) Ellison, Vice-President; Rufus Adams, Vice-President; James E. Ellison, Cashier; and Laurence E. Ellison, Assistant Cashier.

The bank officials selected Kaysville architect, William Allen, to draw up plans for the new bank building. William Allen had designed E. P. Ellison's Farmers Union store in 1892. The bank was built on land across the street from the store at the corner of Main and Gentile Streets. The land was originally patented to Thomas Sandall in 1875, but was not purchased by the bank until 1911. The one-story brick building first opened its doors for business on May 15, 1905. On October 20 and 21, 1906, an east wind blew through northern Davis County causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage. Among the casualties of the disaster was the Layton Bank Building, which was "completely destroyed roof and walls."<sup>4</sup> An examination of the building concluded that the "violent wind blew in the bank's east window, creating intense internal air pressure, which caused the front brick wall to explode onto Gentile Street."<sup>5</sup>

The bank moved its operations temporarily to the Farmers Union Store, while William Allen redesigned the bank. Though the disaster had occurred just eighteen months after the bank's opening, the board of directors was determined to persevere. The *Davis County Clipper* reported on the first annual meeting after the windstorm stating "No quarterly dividend was declared, probably, it had been paid to the east wind that blew the bank building down. It is thought that it will probably take another quarterly dividend to pay for the damage done by the wind."<sup>6</sup> Another article in the *Davis County Clipper* described the construction enhancements of the new building: "The Layton bank which is being rebuilt is as strong physically as the Bank of England is financially. Iron anchors, several feet long, were placed in the walls and other irons were put between the courses of brick in such a way as to hold the building together."<sup>7</sup>

The bank moved from the store back into the new building in the spring of 1907. In October of that year, two burglars broke into the bank vault, but were unable to open the safe where the money was kept. A second attempt in May 1910 was also unsuccessful. By that time, the Layton Bank had a time-locked safe. Frustrated in their attempt, the two thieves locked cashier, Laurence Ellison and night-watchman, Hyrum Evans, in the vault. Ellison and Evans managed to escape and the would-be robbers were apprehended. Laurence Ellison,

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<sup>4</sup> *Davis County Clipper*, October 26, 1906: 1

<sup>5</sup> Steven P. Handy, *First National Bank of Layton: A Century of Putting People First*, unpublished draft, 2005: 9.

<sup>6</sup> *Davis County Clipper*, January 11, 1907.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, November 16, 1906.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

who had been promoted to Cashier after his brother James left, was the bank's lone employee, until he was joined by Vird Cook in 1913. Vird Cook, who was nineteen at the time, spent the next forty-six years working in the bank. By 1914, the assets of the bank had grown to \$187, 907. During its first decade, the Layton Bank's stockholders and customers included most of the business owners and farmers of Layton.

Agriculture had been the economic base of Layton since the pioneer era, but by the 1890s many farmers were beginning to specialize. In particular, the sugar beet was an important cash crop in northern Davis County, with many thousands of tons of sugar beets shipped to sugar plants in Lehi, Utah, and later Ogden, Utah. In 1913, Kaysville-Layton area farmers and businessmen organized the Layton Sugar Company in 1913. The company was incorporated in 1915, with E. P. Ellison as one of the founders. By the fall of 1915, the Dyer Construction Company had completed a \$500,000 sugar plant on a forty-eight-acre site near the Denver & Rio Grande tracks in west Layton. The first year the plant processed 25,000 tons of beets from farms in Kaysville and Layton. In the next two years, the output doubled. The factory employed approximately 300 men working round-the-clock shifts.<sup>8</sup> James E. Ellison served as manager and president of the company.

On August 25, 1915, the minutes of the First National Bank of Layton record that a committee was organized to "investigate the feasibility of remodeling the bank building and making an addition thereto to be rented to the Layton Sugar Company."<sup>9</sup> In September, the bank board approved plans for the addition and a charge of \$60 per month rent to be paid by the Layton Sugar Company. William Allen was again chosen as architect for the addition and remodeling. The *Davis County Clipper* reported that expanded bank would have several objectives: "to furnish a larger home for the bank, provide offices for the sugar company as well as for professional men, etc."<sup>10</sup> The newspaper continued to monitor the progress of the building. According to one report the contractors, Hyde and Sheffield, "have employed all the bricklayers in Davis County that they could get and some few from the outside" for the bank building and another project.<sup>11</sup> As the construction neared completion in January 1916, the *Clipper* published the following glowing report: "The brickwork on the First National Bank addition is completed and the new metal cornice is in place. The metal cornice was placed on the old building so as to make it harmonize perfectly with the new. The cement trimming about the door and windows gives it a massive and attractive appearance. The mason work has also been done with skill. The building is certainly a credit to Architect Allen."<sup>12</sup>

The Layton Bank weathered difficult times through the 1920s, including a successful robbery in 1920 in which the robbers made off with several thousand dollars in war bonds. In 1924, the bank installed the security alarm box still extant on the south elevation. Utah experienced several years of depression even before the stock market crash of 1929. However, the First National Bank of Layton thrived, most likely because it had several large depositors, including the sugar company and the Davis and Weber Counties Canal Companies, in addition to its community customers. The bank hired several bookkeepers, including its first women employees, Beth Green and Norma Underwood. In 1922, the *Kaysville Weekly Reflex* printed this description of the bank's

<sup>8</sup> Glen M. Leonard, *A History of Davis County*, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah State Historical Society and Davis County Commission, 1999: 223-224.

<sup>9</sup> Handy, 25.

<sup>10</sup> *Davis County Clipper*, September 3, 1915.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, November 19 & November 26, 1915.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, January 28, 1916.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 4

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

operations: "The bank does a business extending over the state of Utah and into Nevada and Canada, where Layton people have large interests"<sup>13</sup> In the 1930s, the old system of banks issuing currency was abandoned, and today the few surviving First National Bank of Layton notes are held by collectors. The 1939 remodeling of the bank's interior utilized the popular Art Deco style of the period. That same year, the decision to build an air depot near Ogden would greatly impact the economy of Layton.

The bulk of the Hill Field base was within Davis County with Layton as the closest established community to the base's main gate. The base was operational by November 1940, and even before the United States' entrance into World War II, the economy of Layton was booming. Although the bank benefited from proximity of the base; with so many employed in war-related services, the bank had difficulty finding employees. The Layton Bank even changed its hours to accommodate paydays for Hill Field employees. In 1941, Laurence E. Ellison was elected president of the Utah Bankers' Association. The bank began planning to expand its facilities and build a new vault in 1944, but wartime shortages of materials postponed the project. Though the exterior of the expansion was almost complete in October 1945, the interior work was not completed until 1946. The addition and remodeling included a new bank vault, new safe deposit boxes, a paneled boardroom, kitchenette and restrooms. The addition also doubled the size of the sugar company offices. When the Layton Sugar Company went out of business in 1959, and the bank operations took over the entire building.

In the post World War II years, the First National Bank of Layton became an even more integral part of the economic community. The bank was one of the first in Davis County to offer loans guaranteed under the G.I. Bill. Many important businesses were started with loans from the Layton Bank. One example was Rufus C. Willey of Syracuse, who was a bank customer and founder of the R.C. Willey Company, today Utah's largest furniture and appliance retailer. Through the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the bank continued to upgrade and modernize. A night depository box was first installed in 1954. The glass vestibule was installed in the 1970s. In 1981, the bank moved across the street to the restored Farmers Union Building, where it currently conducts business. During the move, the marble teller stations and the vault were also moved. The L.E. Ellison Family Company purchased the building in 1985. In the 1980s and 1990s, the building was used for a variety of businesses including a print shop, coffee house, computer store, bridal & photography, beauty salon, and most recently, a jewelry store. The building has been vacant since 2003.

### Architecture of William Allen

The architectural significance of the First National Bank of Layton is in its association with the architect-builder, William Allen. William Allen was the most prolific designer and builder in Davis County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Five residences and one commercial building designed by William Allen were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the late 1970s.<sup>14</sup> William Robert Allen was born in London, England on January 1, 1849. When he was twelve years old, his family immigrated to Utah and settled in Kaysville. As a young man, he worked as a farmhand, but was listed as a brick mason by the 1870 census, a trade he learned from his father. At the age of sixteen, he joined the Kaysville Brass Band

<sup>13</sup> *Weekly Reflex* December 21, 1922.

<sup>14</sup> Kaysville residences: 10 S. 100 West, 95 S. 300 West, 42 W. Center. Layton residences: 683 W. Gentile Street, 2767 W. Gentile Street; Layton: 10 S Main Street (Farmers Union Building). A nomination for a sixth residence, the Thomas and Amanda Smith House at 472 N. Main Street in Kaysville, is currently pending (2005).

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 5

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

playing cornet. He also played the violin. He married Mary Simms (1847-1925) in 1876. The couple had seven children. William Allen designed a home for his family at 8 North 300 East in Kaysville.

In the 1880s, William Allen took up drafting in addition to his work as a mason and contractor. By the 1890s, Allen was listing himself as an architect in the local commercial directories. His advertisements included large photograph or pen & ink drawings of his most prominent works, usually the Davis County Courthouse in Farmington (built in 1891, demolished). Not much is known of his work prior to 1890, but during that decade he designed substantial brick homes for several affluent families in Layton and Kaysville. In the 1895, he enrolled in the International Correspondence School's curriculum in architecture. He finished nineteen out of twenty-five courses, but did not receive a diploma. A largely self-taught architecture, his eclectic designs resulted from his own experience in masonry and a reliance on published materials. In an article in the *Davis County Clipper* dated July 4, 1895, a visitor to William Allen's office noted the architect had between \$300 and \$500 worth of books on the subject of architecture.

William Allen received his license in architecture from the State of Utah on June 21, 1911. By this time, he had numerous residences and several civic and commercial buildings (e.g. Farmers Union Building in Layton; Presbyterian Church in Kaysville). Several other important commissions followed in the 1910s (e.g. Barnes Bank Building, Kaysville LDS Tabernacle, and several schools). In a 1919, letter to his daughter Minnie, Allen boasted he was the only licensed architect in Davis County. He also designed buildings outside of Utah (e.g. schools in Arizona and Idaho, and the Oakley, Idaho, LDS Tabernacle.) Allen is remembered in the community for his temper as well as his buildings. While supervising masons on the Kaysville Elementary School (1918), he was enraged by the inferior work and began hurling bricks at the workers. He monopolized the architectural profession in Davis County and was often upset when he learned of buildings erected without his assistance. Semi-retired in the 1920s, William Allen's occupation was listed as "architectural drawing" by the 1920 census enumerator. William R. Allen died on October 11, 1928. His obituary ended with the following tribute: [William Allen] left his constructive mark in Davis and other parts of Utah and Idaho. His buildings were designed and built with a strength and honesty which was symbolic of his character."<sup>15</sup>

The commission for the First National Bank of Layton came at the apex of Allen's career. In his various designs for the bank building, not only his architectural, but also his engineering skills presented a particular challenge. His first version of the building, completed in 1905, was destroyed in October 1906 by a particularly strong east wind in Davis County. The rebuilt bank, begun in late 1906 and completed in 1907, was similar in design, but featured major enhancements, such as a stronger parapet, thicker masonry, and anchors. In 1915, when William Allen was asked to expand the building, he created a nearly identical bay to the east and made former corner entrance into a grander south facing entrance. While essentially Victorian in style, the expanded bank has more classical elements and represents Allen's maturing, definitively twentieth-century style. Across the street from the nearly neo-classical bank building is the Farmers Union Building, which was built by William Allen in 1896, a far more elaborate Victorian-style commercial block.

<sup>15</sup> *The Weekly Kaysville Reflex*, October 11, 1928.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 6

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

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William Allen's career spanned four decades. The numerous brick masonry residences, churches, civic and commercial buildings are scattered throughout Davis County and other parts of Utah and Idaho. Very few of his works have been demolished and many have been lovingly maintained and restored over the years. His architectural legacy is an undeniable part of the landscape of Davis County, Utah.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 1

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 2

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

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*Weekly Reflex (Kaysville).*

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 0.1779 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/2 4/1/8/8/4/0 4/5/4/5/7/2/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

BEG 499.3 FT E 33 FT N FR SW COR SEC 21, 4N, 1W, SLM; E 106 FT N 29^43' W 115 FT W 49 FT S 100 FT TO BEG.

Property Tax No. 10-089-0003

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current boundaries are the same as those associated with the property historically.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Korral Broschinsky, Preservation Documentation Resource  
organization prepared for the L. E. Ellison Family Company date January 26, 2006  
street & number P. O. Box 58766 telephone (801) 913-5645  
city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84158

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

name/title L. E. Ellison Family Company, Contact: Catherine Smith  
street & number 123 N. Flint Street telephone (801) 230-8232  
city or town Kaysville state UT zip code 84037

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 1

First National Bank of Layton, Layton, Davis County, UT

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## Common Label Information:

1. First National Bank of Layton
2. 50 West Gentile Street, Layton, Davis County, Utah
3. Photographer: Korral Broschinsky
4. Date: August 2005
5. Negatives on file at Utah SHPO.

## Archival Photographs

### **Photo No. 1:**

6. South elevation of building. Camera facing north.

### **Photo No. 2:**

6. South & east elevations of building. Camera facing northwest.

## Supplemental Photographs

### **Photo No. 3:**

6. North & west elevations of building. Camera facing southeast.

### **Photo No. 4:**

6. South elevation of building, entrance detail. Camera facing north.

### **Photo No. 5:**

6. East elevation of building. Camera facing west.

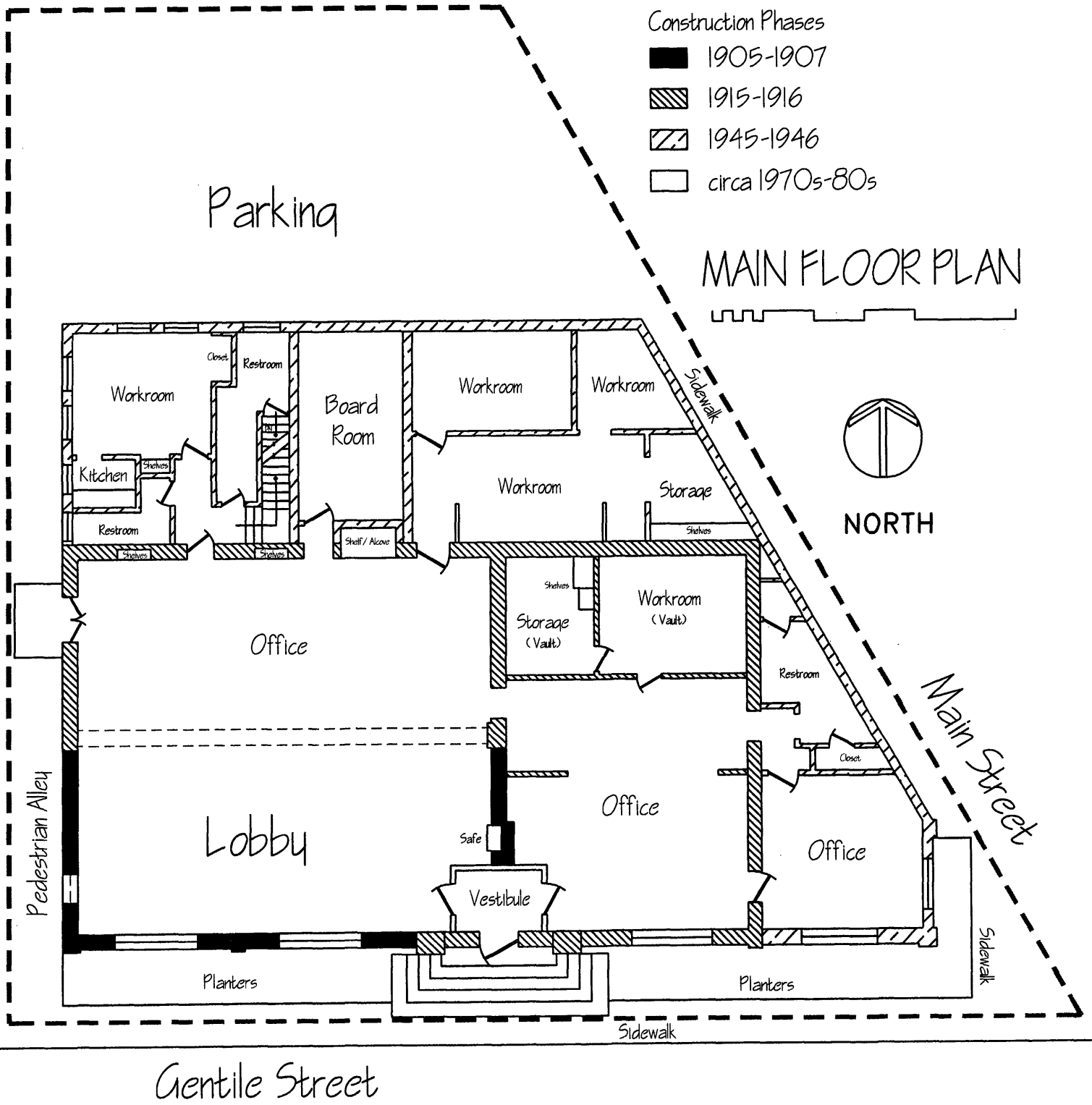
### **Photo No. 6:**

6. Interior, main floor, west side. Camera facing northeast.

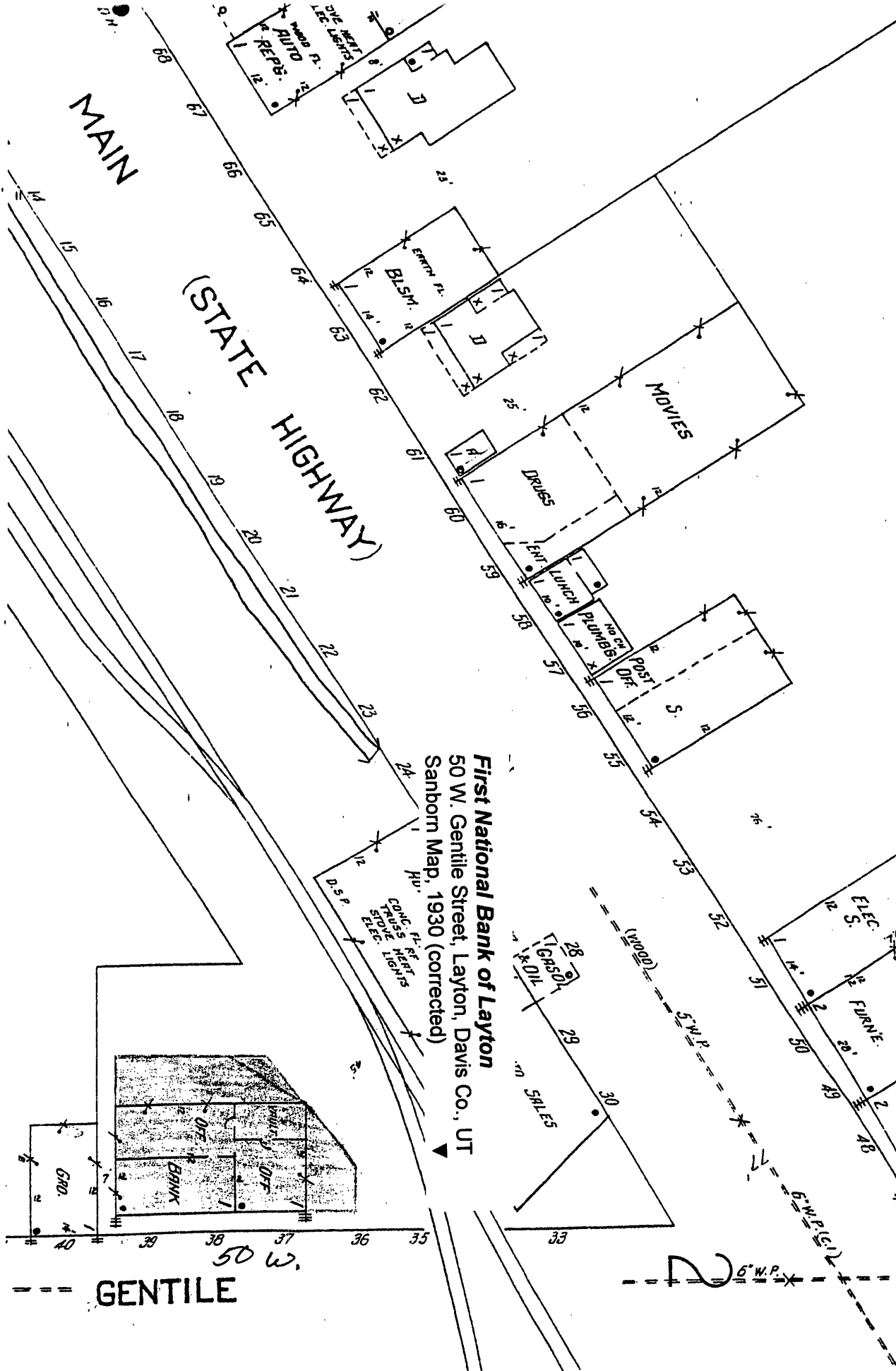
### **Photo No. 7:**

6. Interior, main floor, east side. Camera facing northeast.





First National Bank of Layton  
 50 W. Gentile Street, Layton, Davis Co., UT



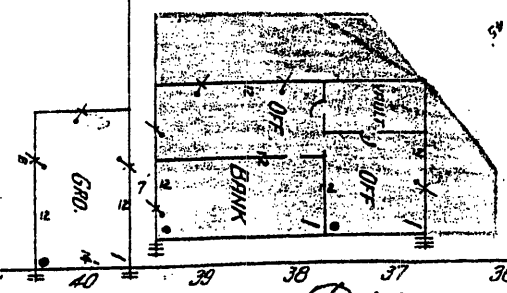
MAIN

(STATE HIGHWAY)

GENTILE

First National Bank of Layton  
 50 W. Gentile Street, Layton, Davis Co., UT  
 Sanborn Map, 1930 (corrected)

4

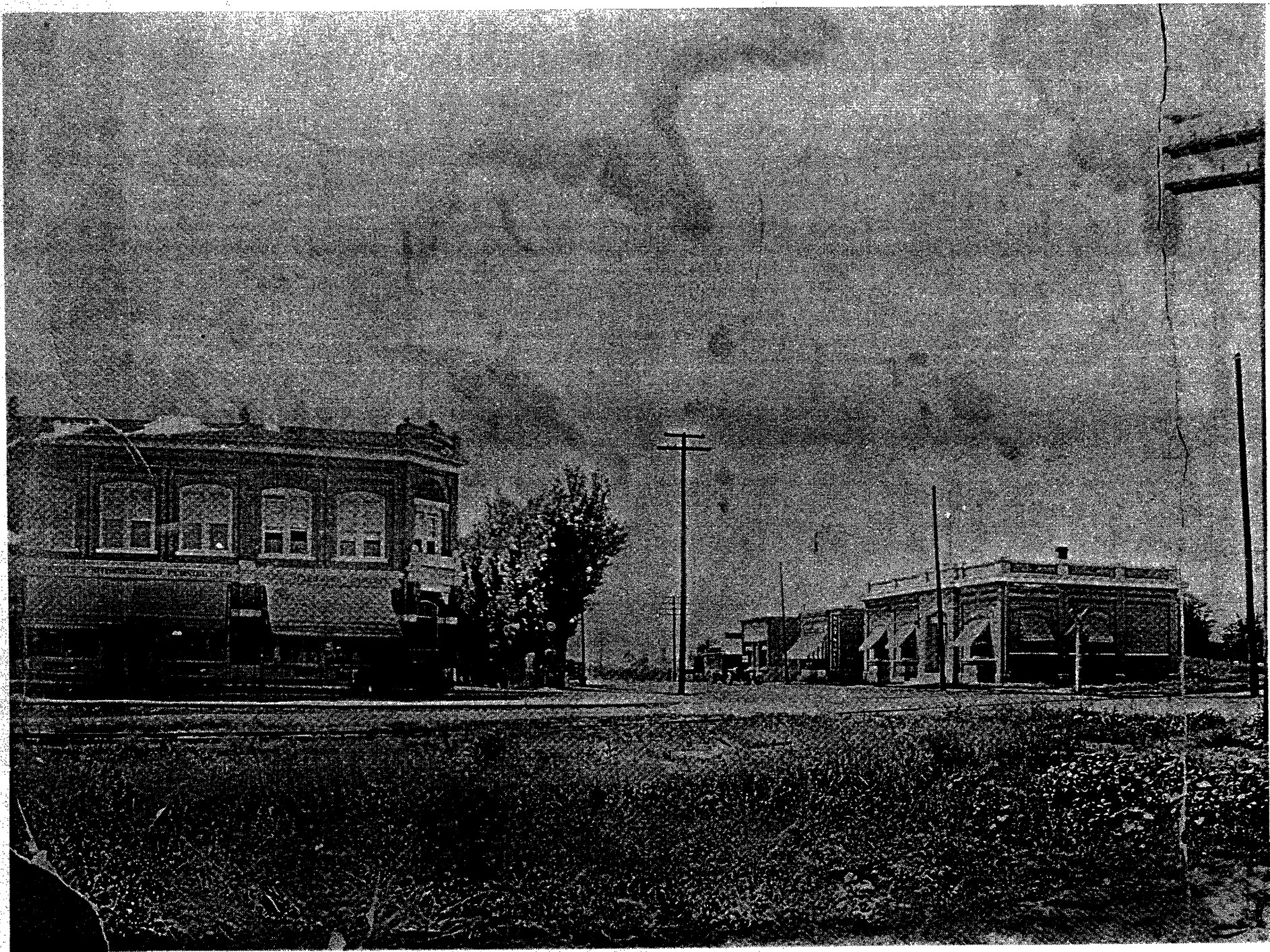


50 W.

6" W.P. 10" W.P. (WOOD)

17380

1.2



First National Bank of Layton c. 1920?

# BANK

## EAST WIND DESTROYS 1905 BUILDING

### *MOST DISASTROUS CALAMITY IN THE HISTORY OF DAVIS COUNTY*

The Layton Bank was completely destroyed roof and walls. Richardson's new wagon shop, the new saloon, the whole cannery roof, completely destroyed the engine room of the mill, S. H. Nalder, big barn, killing one of his cows, and William N. Nalder's slaughter house.

A hurricane-force wind of 74 miles an hour roared through north Davis County on October 20 and 21, 1906, causing extensive damage. It blew down First National's roof and walls along with numerous other buildings including the Layton Cannery. Despite the bank building's damage, day-to-day business didn't suffer all that much because the Farmer's Union, relatively untouched by the winds, served as a temporary bank office. By mid-November, the damaged walls had been razed and preparations were under way for reconstruction. The bank's directors declared that the building was being rebuilt as strong physically as the Bank of England is financially. Iron anchors were placed in the walls and more between the bricks in order to strengthen the building. From November until March, workmen cleared away debris, hauled in sand, lime, rods, nuts, screws, washers, cement, and lumber from the Farmer's Union along with thousands of bricks.

—DAVIS COUNTY CLIPPER  
November 16, 1906

A few months later, First National moved back to its original location and began doing business in its rough, unfinished structure.

### AN OLD TIME "EASTER"

By Far the Most Disasterous Calamity in the History of Davis County.

### TRAFFIC & COMMUNICATION CUT OFF.

New Packing Plant, Transmission companies, Brick Yards, Public and Private buildings Sustained Terrible Losses.

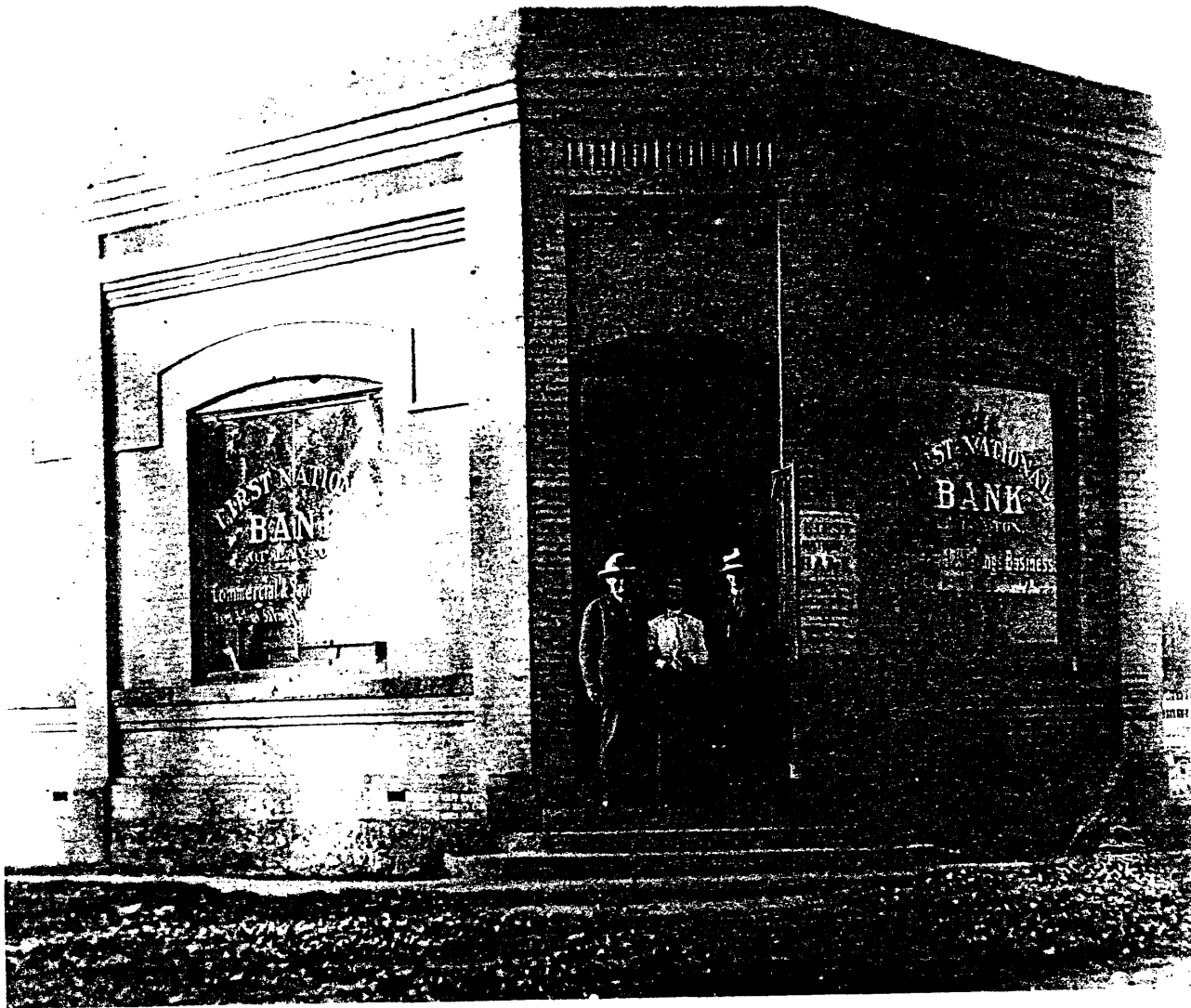
That was a terrible week what lay here so did the lives of Joe we had Saturday night and Sunday A. Highway, Van Allen, John day. The damage it did to the Hampton, Chris Nelson, Fitting society can never be estimated lay about. Lay's article, Graham's



(left) Newspaper account of 1906 windstorm.

excerpts from *First National Bank of Layton: A Century of Putting People First* (unpublished draft, 2005)





*(Facing, top) Laurence E. Ellison was twenty-six years old when he became First National Bank of Layton's first and only employee. Ellison stands in the doorway on "Sandall's Corner" at 50 West Gentile Street shortly after the building's completion in 1905. The bank's diagonal entrance on the northeast corner of Gentile and Main faced the town square, complementing a similar diagonal front door at the Farmer's Union Store directly south across Gentile Street. (inset) Formal portrait of Laurence E. Ellison about the time he started his banking career.*

*(Facing, bottom) A violent wind blew in the bank's east window on October 20 and 21, 1906, creating intense internal air pressure, which caused the front brick wall to explode onto Gentile Street.*

*(above) Reconstructed First National Bank, c. 1907. Notice the enhancements above the roofline. L. E. Ellison stands in front of the bank along with an unidentified couple.*



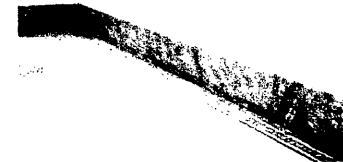
its operating economy and its convenience in making city and suburban calls," the ad boasted. A starter and demountable rims were \$85 extra.

## A NEW BANK PRESIDENT

In 1915, the *Davis County Clipper* reported that "The brickwork on the First National Bank addition is completed and the new metal cornice is in place. The cement trimmings about the door and windows give it a massive and attractive appearance. The mason work has also been done with skill. The building is certainly a credit to Architect Allen."

Remodeling commenced inside the bank as well with the installation of new fixtures in the counting room. "White clouded and black marble and mahogany have been used in the manufacture of the fixtures, which present a most handsome appearance. When the job is finished, this bank will enjoy the distinction of having the finest fixtures in Davis County."

When First National Bank moved to the Farmer's Union building in 1981, the marble was also moved and can still be seen today in the ornate Main Branch.



*(right) First National Bank of Layton building at 50 West Gentile was expanded and remodeled in 1915 to house the Layton Sugar Company offices.*

*(above) Interior of First National Bank after remodeling in 1915. The mahogany panels and white-clouded and black marble mentioned in newspaper reports are clearly visible.*





As First National Bank's memorable second decade drew to a close in 1924, a notice of condition published in the *Weekly Reflex* listed total assets as \$483,809. Another story from 1924 entitled, "Statement of bank examiner prompts editor to claim Davis County richest county in the world," compared First National's deposits from 1913 with 1924. First National's deposits in 1913 were listed as \$75,999. By 1924 they had grown to \$260,361.

The agriculture-based economy of Layton had boomed and farmers had extensively supported the Layton Sugar

Company. Fortunately, the business enterprises of E. P. Ellison were all interrelated and somewhat dependent on each other for success. Although the effects of World War I were devastating for the national and local economies, First National Bank was able to weather the storm because of a sound local economy, the diversification of its customers, and the prudent and steady management of its officers and board. That leadership and stability would be put to the test in the next decade as the stock market crash and the Great Depression loomed on the horizon.



(above) First National Bank is shown after being redecorated to incorporate popular Art Deco style, c. 1939. Notice the typical Art Deco oval designs over the doors.

(left) First National Bank interior is shown after redecorating in 1939. The interior, including the lighting fixtures, was upgraded in the same popular Art Deco style.

(facing) Layton's North Main Street, c. 1937