

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name First National Bank of South Pittsburg
other names/site number South Pittsburg City Hall

2. Location

street & number 204 W. Third St. N/A not for publication
city, town South Pittsburg N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Marion code 115 zip code 37380

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Shirley L. Hays 5/15/91
Signature of certifying official Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: Entered in the National Register
 entered in the National Register. 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:)
Shirley L. Hays 6/24/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)GOVERNMENT: city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)foundation BRICK/STONE

walls BRICK

roof SLATE

other TERRA COTTA

METAL

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The First National Bank of South Pittsburg building is a two-story Romanesque building, built in 1887. It is red brick with a brick and stone foundation, rectangular in plan. It has a hipped slate roof with decorative flashing on the ridges. Paired stone belt courses divide the building between the first and second levels and the second level and attic. A pressed metal architrave with pressed dentils, a brick frieze, and a metal cornice form the building entablature which runs along the south and east facades.

A circa 1905 addition on the east facade forms the entry to the interior stairwell. The addition has two stories on the east and north facades and one story on the west facade. It almost doubles the width of the south facade, creating a slightly recessed secondary facade.

The front (south) facade of the First National Bank is in two parts: the original and the 1905 addition. The original facade has a five-part arcade with the entry to the building in the westernmost arch. In the remainder are three single-pane casement windows under a three-part, half-circle transom. Each arch of the arcade is ashlar lined. The second story has two wall dormers with triple one-over-one single-hung windows with two stained glass transoms above each. The dormers are surrounded by brick half-round columns which extend above the roofline. At the base of each column is a terra cotta acanthus leaf design. The capitals are a terra cotta fishscale design. Above the stone lintel in the dormer is a three-part stained glass attic window in a Roman arch. In the point of the gable is a terra cotta acanthus leaf design. Between the two wall dormers is a one-over-one single-hung sash window with a stone sill. This window is surrounded by half-round columns with stone base and capitals. A floral pattern, terra cotta tile forms the lintel.

On each corner of the second story on the main facade is a round brick column set in a recessed area. Each has an acanthus leaf square terra cotta capital.

The 1905 facade is to the west of the original facade and is set about six inches farther back. It mimics many of the design features of the original. There are three stone-lined, Roman head, arched windows on the

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eastern half of the facade and three awning windows with stone surrounds on the west side of the facade. In the center is the original 1905 metal night deposit box made by the Mosler Safe Company.

The east facade of the building mimics many of the details of the south facade. It has a three-arch arcade. The end arches enclose a paired single-light casement window under a half round transom. The center arch encloses three single-light casement windows under a three-part, half-round transom. The second story wall dormer is identical to the front wall dormers except in some terra cotta detailing. Below the sill is a floral motif with a scroll in front. On the scroll in intertwined letters is "First National Bank." The panel has a beaded edge. In the point of the gable is another floral motif terra cotta panel with a scroll enscribed "1887," the year the bank was founded and built.

Connected to the east facade is a circa 1905 addition which leads to the second story of the building. On the south side of this addition is an entry with three stone columns with a single base on each side. Each column has an acanthus leaf capital and is topped by a square stone cornice. Between these capitals is a single-light wood door topped with a half-round transom. A stone-lined Roman arch tops the transom. A two-over-two, double-hung sash window is on the second story of the south and east facades of the addition. The addition has a flat parapet roof.

The north and west facades of the building show the 1905 addition; the north facade shows the windowless back of the addition. Sharing the northwest wall is a circa 1970 one-story, multicolored-brick, non-contributing building (214 Elm Avenue). It has metal frame stationary windows, a box cornice, and a flat roof. This building is about half the length of the facade and is even with the west facade of the 1905 addition. There is no entry between the two buildings; they share only a common party wall.

The west facade is the one-story side of the 1905 addition, which is red brick with no windows. The second story of the original building is partially visible, revealing an eight-over-eight double hung sash window and an attic vent in a hipped roof dormer.

The interior of the First National Bank retains many of its original features, despite minor alterations to meet the needs of a growing bank and, later, a city hall. A circa 1955 tellers' counter remains in the main lobby area and it is used for city services. The original window and door moldings remain, as do many of the original interior doors, including their

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hardware. The baseboards and wainscotting remain in many of the upstairs offices. The original stairs to the upper floor have been tiled, but the bannister remains. Some of the original light fixtures remain on the second story.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1887-1940

Significant Dates

1887

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The First National Bank of South Pittsburg, or South Pittsburg City Hall, as this building is commonly known, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "C" for its architectural significance to South Pittsburg, Marion County, Tennessee. It is also eligible under criterion "A" for First National Bank's role in the development of the town.

South Pittsburg was founded in 1873 by the Southern States Coal, Iron, and Land Company for its potential as an industrial center. In 1877, after the founders of the company had died, the company assets were sold to various groups, but, in 1886, they were consolidated into the South Pittsburg City Company. After consolidation, industrial recruitment was continued and expanded by the City Company.

The City of South Pittsburg grew with steel and hosiery plants, textile mills, ice plants, and other industries that moved into the area. As industry grew, the town grew to meet their needs. There were frequently housing shortages because people could not afford to buy land and a home on what the industries paid them. The local bank, First National Bank, created a Home Savings Bank to help people buy homes and land.

On February 28, 1887 five men met in Nashville to form a bank for the new industrial town of South Pittsburg. These five men invested \$10,000 each and formed the first board of directors for the First National Bank. They decided to build an elaborate building on the corner of Third Street and Elm Avenue, the heart of the commercial part of town. The banks first quarters were in a store on Cedar Avenue, but this was only temporary until their new building was completed later in 1887.

The bank played a major role in the development of South Pittsburg because it gave loans to people who wished to buy land and build houses. The bank also loaned money for some of the commercial and industrial enterprises that shaped South Pittsburg.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	6	6	1	8	0	4	0	3	8	7	5	0	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

South Pittsburg Quad. 100 SW

Verbal Boundary Description

The First National Bank buildings is located on accompanying South Pittsburg, Marion County tax map 142-J as batch "B" lot 25.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The area nominated is the lot traditionally associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen L. Daniels, Historic Preservation Planner
organization Southeast Tennessee Development District date February 1991
street & number 816 W. 8th St., Suite 300 telephone (615) 266-5781
city or town Chattanooga state Tennessee zip code 37402

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For the first twenty years of its existence, First National Bank had no competition for local accounts; the first competition happened in 1907 when the South Pittsburg Savings Bank opened. First National survived the competition, advertising itself as the only National Bank in the Sequatchie Valley. The advertising worked because the bank's assets grew from its formation in 1887 until the effects of the great depression were felt locally.

The bank had gained a reputation for stability after it survived the economic panics of the 1890's and customers felt safe with their money in the bank. They survived the lean years of the Great Depression because people had confidence in them.

The bank grew through most of its years of existence, with the exception of the depression years. During the post-war boom, the bank expanded and, by 1967, it had moved into modern offices. They began to open branch offices in communities in Marion County and in neighboring Grundy County. About this time they changed their name to First Bank of Marion County, to reflect their growth.

The First National Bank Building is significant to the architectural history of South Pittsburg as an ornate example of late 19th century commercial architecture. The commercial district of South Pittsburg is comprised of one- and two-story, late 19th century and early 20th century buildings with few architectural details. The buildings have corbelled brick cornices, limestone lintels on their upper facade, and some decorative brickwork. Many of the commercial buildings in South Pittsburg have had their storefronts altered, removing the original materials of the storefronts and covering transoms and other decorative elements. The interior spaces of most commercial buildings have been altered to meet the needs of the changing retail market. The First National Bank building is the most highly ornamented building in South Pittsburg and it retains most of its original interior and exterior details.

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Hustler. South Pittsburg, Tennessee. Weekly issues 1899-1933, microfilm at Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Kelly, Martelia Cameron. A History of South Pittsburg, Tennessee the First 100 Years. South Pittsburg, Tennessee: Hustler Printing Co., 1973.

Link, Gertrude Bible. A History of Marion County. (Masters Thesis, June 1953, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee)

Marion County Historical Society. The Story of Marion County, Its People and Places. Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1990.

Portrait of a Heritage 1887 - 1987. South Pittsburg, Tennessee: First Bank of Marion County, 1987.

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First National Bank Building
South Pittsburg, Marion County, Tennessee
Photos by: Karen L. Daniels
Date: August/September 1990
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

#1 of 9
South facade, facing North

#2 of 9
East facade, facing West

#3 of 9
North facade, facing South

#4 of 9
West facade, facing East

#5 of 9
Overview of front of building and lot

#6 of 9
Overview of rear of building and 214 Elm Avenue

#7 of 9
Detail of east facade wall dormer

#8 of 9
Detail of interior

#9 of 9
Detail of interior

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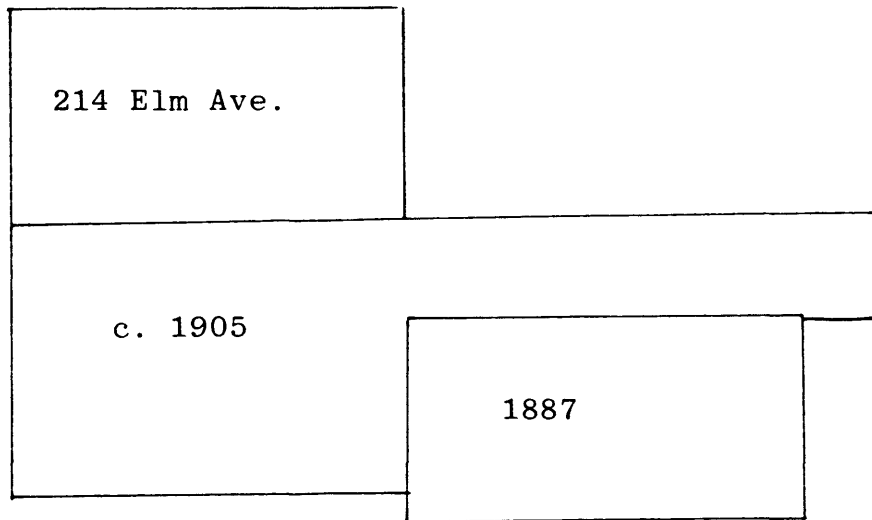
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3

6

4



2

5

1

Photo Key Map
 First National Bank Building
 South Pittsburg, Marion County, Tennessee
 < points toward what is being photographed
 1-4 views of facades
 5-6 overviews of building and lot