

PH# 363677

177HS DATA SHEET
DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 21 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 7 1977

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Parrott Insurance Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

283 East Broad Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Athens,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Clarke

CODE

059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

OTHER:

~~apartment~~

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles Parrott & Associates Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

~~283 Broad Street~~

CITY, TOWN
Athens

STATE

Georgia

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clarke County Courthouse, Deed Book W. p. 311

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Athens

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Clarke County Survey by Patricia Cooper

DATE

August, 1975

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

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 Parrott Insurance Building, located on one of the main 19th century commercial streets in Athens, was built at least by 1858, however the Richardson Romanesque style front facade was probably not added until 1886.

The architectural style can best be described as Richardsonian Romanesque for the exterior. The large single rounded arch entrance to a deeply recessed flat lintel front door is constructed of rough hewn stone with a radiating voussoir segmental arch flanked by two straight-topped windows on either side. Two string courses divide the second and third stories. Three Italiniate stone arch windows form the bays that are separated by four brickwork Doric pilasters. A double triangulated pediment dormer sits on four stone brackets above the attic floor over the projecting cornice. The front hipped roof slants at a steep 60° angle to the back ridgepole. Pyramidal turrets cap the street side perpendicular gable. The original interior floor plan is two room side wall stairwell.

The first floor, as bank offices, was divided into two rooms with a counter and teller's cage dividing the entrance door from two walk-in vaults on the west wall. The second floor was the accounting office. Some original wainscoting is retained in the backroom of the second floor. The stairwell is intact as constructed. The third floor was the original bank directors' meeting rooms. The staircase terminates in a skylight hall with the two rooms forming an L-shaped plan on the sides adjacent to the stairs. The adaptive use of the whole building is best exemplified by the third floor at the present time. An apartment with minor partitioning of the back room for a kitchen and water closet has been created from the directors' rooms. The floor boards are narrow strip pine. The two fireplaces on the east wall are original to the earliest period of the "brickstore" mentioned in the 1858 deed in my opinion. The mantel and cover maintain the three beaded molding of the wainscoting. The mantel is a frieze and shelf supported by two pilasters. The vertical beading would indicate a stock molding of the 1840s.

Tentative doubts should be cast on the interior as being Richardsonian Romanesque. The supporting evidence of the tax increment being only \$2,750, instead of a larger sum, would infer renovation rather than a total construction. The sum would support, however, extensive renovation to the facade and first floor in converting a place of mercantile commerce into one for banking.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Banking	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1858; 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Parrott Insurance Co. is found not only in the fact that it is one of very few Richardson-Romanesque styled buildings in Athens, but also for its importance during the turn-of-the-century as The National Bank of Athens.

The earliest recorded deed for the building site of the Parrott Insurance Building was dated from 1858 when John I. Huggins sold the land with a "brick store...fronting on the front street" to a William T. Stark. In 1862 it was conveyed to Thomas Bishop, et al., and remained in the Bishop estate until it was sold to the Atlanta National Building and Loan Association in 1891. The Tax Digest for Clarke County indicated that in 1885 Martha Bishop, Executrix, paid taxes on the property valued at \$18,500. The following year, 1886 the value jumped to \$21,250. The present facade was probably added in that interim. In 1928 the Athens Savings Bank sold the building to the National Bank of Athens which held title until Charles Parrott, Sr., purchased it in 1950. Charles Parrott and Associates, Inc., had occupied the building since the 1930s but made alterations on the first and second floor only after gaining title to it. In 1975 the third floor was adaptively restored as a townhouse apartment.

The conversion of the "brickfront" building from a mercantile establishment to a bank came during an era of rapid economic expansion in the city of Athens. The three banks in town flanked one another side by side on East Broad Street. They were in tandem not only architecturally but also financially. During the turbulent boom or bust economic cycles of the last decade of the nineteenth century and the waning years of the 1920s it is alleged that the cash flow of the various financial institutions was frequently facilitated by their connecting walls. It seems that officers of the banks handed money through the back windows to one another to meet depositors demands. The stability of the town's economy may at times have rested entirely on the first floor back window of the Parrott Building.

It should be noted that the adaptive use of the third floor to a townhouse is a reflection of a trend toward re-urbanization due to the energy costs for transportation. Sitting directly across from the University of Georgia Old Campus it affords a park like setting to its occupants. The view, the accessibility of services, and the spaciousness of the converted director's rooms create a harmonious and pleasant location which functions well with the professional offices on the lower floors. It is a landmark example in Athens of the potential available space for adaptive use conversion in architecturally significant buildings in the central business district.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Andrews, W., Architecture in America: A Photographic History from the Colonial Period to the Present. New York: Atheneum, 1960.
- Hamlin, T.F., The American Spirit in Architecture. New Haven: Yale, 1926.
- Hitchcock, H.R., Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. Baltimore: Penguin, 1958.
- Schuyler, M., American Architecture and Other Writings. Cambridge: Belknap of Harvard, 1961.
- Hallmidge, T.C., The Story of Architecture in America. New York: Norton, 1927.
- Hiffen, M., American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to Styles. Cambridge: M.I.T., 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	2,8,0,5,4,0	3,7,5,9,8,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

U. Georgia
 Elizabeth Walter, Class Member, ENV 476/676 (Elizabeth Macgregor, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Consultan

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources September 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S. W. room 703-C 404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

12-9-76

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Photographs ITEM NUMBER PAGE

Parrott Insurance Building, Athens, Clarke County, Georgia

Photos by: David J. Kaminsky

Date: May, 1975.

Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. Front facade, photographer facing northwest.
2. First floor safe door.
3. Third floor mantel.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Parrott, Charles., Personal Interviews, April and May, 1975.