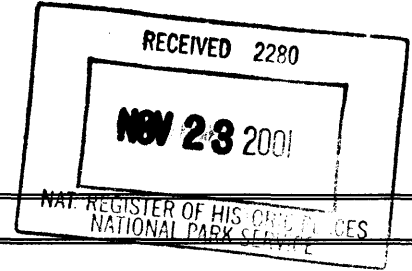


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1410



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name State Bank of Silverhill
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 15950 Silverhill Ave. not for publication n/a
city or town Silverhill vicinity n/a
state Alabama code AL county Baldwin code 03 zip code 36576

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] November 20, 2001
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
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 commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

X entered in the National Register

[Signature] 12.31.01

 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):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> Commerce-Trade </u>	Sub: <u> Bank </u>
<u> </u>	<u> Department Store </u>
<u> Government </u>	<u> Post Office </u>
<u> Domestic </u>	<u> Single dwelling </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> Commerce-Trade </u>	Sub: <u> Specialty Store </u>
<u> Domestic </u>	<u> Single Dwelling </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Late 19th/Early 20th Century Revivals

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof asphalt; metal: tin
walls brick
other n/a

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

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

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.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- A: Commerce
C: Architecture

Period of Significance 1927-1951

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository:
Mobile Historic Development Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>427920</u>	<u>3379250</u>	3 _____
2	_____	_____	4	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ed Hooker, Preservation Consultant, Trina Binkley and Christy Anderson, AHC Reviewers
organization The Renaissance Group, LLC date 1/10/01
street & number 500 Church Street telephone 334-433-8544
city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36602

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

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Joseph Spalding
street & number P.O. Box 700 telephone 334-945-5168
city or town Silverhill state AL zip code 36576

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

State Bank of Silverhill
Baldwin County, Alabama

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The State Bank of Silverhill, constructed in a vernacular style combining Classical Revival with Craftsman, is located on one of four main corners in the South Alabama community of Silverhill. The north-facing building occupies one half of the block, and is situated towards the center of the property. Mature pecan trees serve as property line boundaries on the south and east side. Through the widening of Alabama Highway 104, no substantial frontage remains. To the west of the structure is a concrete parking area; to the east is a grassy lawn separating the drive from a cross street.

The two-story masonry structure is constructed on a concrete slab foundation, and walls constructed of hollow terra cotta tile veneered with yellow ochre-colored wire-cut brick (a popular brick style of the 1920s). The roof system is a hipped roof with two gable louvered vents located on the front and rear of the structure, and a splayed overhang with exposed chamfered rafter tails. A narrow concrete slab runs along the width of the front of the building. The front of the building, the north façade, is symmetrical in design, with a centrally-located pair of doors with $\frac{3}{4}$ length with solid panels below, flanked by large picture windows. Above the front doors and the picture windows are Classical Revival-style multi-light transoms, rectangular in shape with a muntin configuration of cross-over-x. All window and door openings have a single vertical soldier course creating a window lintel. Between the floors is a soldier course of bricks in a belt course that runs around the perimeter of the building. The second floor has two sets of triple six-over-one wood windows

The east elevation has six-over-one window sash, two entry doors with two vertical wooden panels below three vertical by two horizontal glass panes, and one small six-over-one window opening. This opening was enlarged to accommodate a doorway into the stair hall. The top sash was reused as a transom above the door. In the restoration of the building, the opening was re-bricked and the bottom single pane sash reinstalled. The second floor of the east elevation features three single six-over-one windows sash and a pair of six-over-one window sash near the southeast corner. The first floor of the west elevation of the original structure is concealed at the first floor level by a shed addition. The second floor of the west elevation features three single six-over-one windows sash and a pair of six-over-one window sash near the southwest corner. The rear or south elevation has two single six-over-one wood sash windows on each floor. Historically, the building was constructed with two stamped metal and wood awnings, one spanning the front façade and covering the main entrance and picture windows and dividing the transoms from the openings below. The second was located on the east elevation over the door to the Post Office and the door leading to the upstairs. An historic photograph shows the "Post Office – Silverhill, Alabama" sign hanging perpendicular from the canopy above. Also visible is a message board located between the two exterior doors.

To the west of the front elevation is a circa 1935 shed addition with a parapet front somewhat mirroring the original, with a single entry door flanked by a pair of large picture windows. The brick has been painted to match the yellow brick of the original building and to hide the mixed brick infill (the original configuration was a large central opening flanked by single six-over-one wood windows.) The west elevation of the shed addition is constructed of a mixture of non-historic concrete block, aluminum and wood sheathing. The shed extends over the exterior wall and forms a porch supported by round creosote-coated columns.

The interior of the building is virtually unchanged from the original configuration. What was originally the bank lobby occupies the front half of the first floor of the original building. This space retains its original black and white concrete tile flooring, laid in a checkerboard pattern. Plaster applied right on top of the hollow terra cotta wall material is scored in a stacked stone pattern. A plaster-covered concrete beam runs across the ceiling of the lobby space, suggesting the original location of the teller counter. Two steel-reinforced concrete vaults, with 18" thick walls, are directly off the main room. A hallway leads from the lobby space through a stair hall (now enclosed) into the space once occupied by the Silverhill Post Office.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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State Bank of Silverhill
Baldwin County, Alabama

An enclosed stair winds in an L-shaped plan from the first floor to the second floor. At the stair landing where the stair makes a 90 degree turn is an access to an area approximately 3' tall that separates the vaults from the second floor system. At the head of the stairs is a typical wood Craftsman newel post and handrail, consisting of a rectangular bottom rail, square wood pickets and a rectangular top rail. Oral tradition mentions the space on the second floor having been used for insurance agency offices. Upstairs, the plan remains unchanged. A central interior hall connects all of the rooms. Floors are of 2" pine strips. Interior walls are of plaster over United States Gypsum fireproof gypsum board. Exterior walls are of plaster applied directly to the terra cotta wall material, with hog wire used as a substrate. The front two rooms, over the lobby below, each have triple nine-over-one windows overlooking Broad Street. Smaller, secondary spaces are located behind the two large front rooms.

The shed addition, circa 1935, is an open space supported by non-historic pipe columns supporting an exposed roof rafter system (non code-conforming) of poorly framed two-by-fours, one-by-four stripping and barn tin roofing. Access from the main lobby space was created by removing and enlarging two single window openings. The perimeter walls are unfinished, and the structural system of concrete block, undersized framing members and the back of exterior sheathing is visible. A double opening at the rear of the shed addition opens into the former post office space, and was presumably a freight door. The large metal lintel spanning this opening is still visible, as are the soldier course window heads and metal lintels of this opening and the removed windows in the front of the shed addition. The west wall has two plate glass windows and a single non-historic aluminum screen door. The interior of this space has an unfinished concrete floor, painted brick on the east/main building wall, exposed wood framing on the west wall, unfinished concrete block on the south wall and lauan-style paneling on the north wall.

The State Bank of Silverhill is in excellent condition and has had very little alteration since its construction.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains is good/high. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire area. Properties of this type were sited within a constellation of dependencies such as kitchens or other outbuildings. Buried portions may contain information useful in interpreting the entire property.

8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The State Bank of Silverhill is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Commerce and Government, for the role the structure played in providing services to the residents of the Silverhill Community.

The State Bank of Silverhill is eligible under Criterion C, Architecture. This structure, constructed in 1927 as a community financial and business center, is an excellent and intact example of an early 20th century masonry structure constructed in a vernacular style combining elements of Classical Revival and Craftsman. The unique construction system of combining hollow terra cotta tile with brick veneer exterior and plaster interior was new during this period of building construction. With the exception of the roof system, the building was essentially "fireproof." Within the local context of Silverhill, this building represents one of the highest style vernacular buildings and one of a few commercial buildings in the community.

Baldwin County, Alabama was created by the Mississippi Territorial Legislature in 1809, and was the third county formed in the State, and covers approximately 1,585 square miles. The economy of the county is primarily from agrarian resources, with fruit, grains and cotton being the largest commodity crops. At the turn of the 20th century, the number of farms in the county totaled 1,818, with the average farm land size around 20-50 acres (2). The community of Silverhill was founded in 1897. The Silverhill Post Office was established two years later, in 1899. In 1926, the community incorporated and became the Town of Silverhill (1). The population

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

State Bank of Silverhill
Baldwin County, Alabama

of Silverhill has continued to grow at a rather slow pace, as shown in the U.S. Census records. In 1930, Silverhill had 314 residents. The 1990 Census revealed that the population had increased to 556, just slightly under 100 percent. The only decline in population occurred between 1930 and 1940, when the population dropped by 44 residents. This decrease in population can be attributed to the Great Depression, when tenant farmers abandoned farming for lucrative work in larger cities with industrial economies.

In December 1923, the State Bank of Silverhill received permission, authorized by A.E. Jackson, Superintendent of State Banks, to "engage in the banking business." 25 Baldwin County residents pooled their resources and raised the initial deposit of \$10,000. Contributions ranged from \$100 - \$1,000 dollars, and each \$100 deposited was equal to one share of common stock in the new bank. The Board of Directors consisted of five founding members: Oscar Johnson, O.F.E. Winberg, Charles Gustafson, Charles Lyrene and Peter Foresman. The first officers of the State Bank of Silverhill were: Oscar Johnson, President; Charles Lyrene, Vice President; and Peter Foresman, Cashier. The Articles of Incorporation were approved by the Superintendent of State Banks in April 1924, and Permission to Begin Business was issued from Superintendent A.E. Jackson the following May .

The property on which the Bank was constructed was purchased by the State Bank of Silverhill from Emanuel J. Havel and wife, and Karel Siegler and wife, in 1924. Construction of the new edifice for the State Bank of Silverhill was completed the following year in 1925. The rear portion of the building was occupied by the Silverhill Branch of the United States Post Office from 1925 until 1933. Oral tradition recounts that the space on the second floor was occupied by an insurance agency.

Deteriorating economic conditions forced the bank to close in 1933, leaving a majority of the Silverhill residents in financial ruin. Oral tradition also recounts that every resident of the community had an investment in the State Bank.

In 1935, A.E. Jackson, again acting as Superintendent of State Banks, sold the property to a family, who converted the bank space into a grocery store. The most significant change to the structure was at this time, when the new owners added the shed addition to accommodate feed and seed supplies and storage. The shed addition was originally constructed with a garage-type door facing Broad Street to accommodate deliveries. The post office area was converted into a chicken hatchery. Upstairs became the living quarters for the parents and six children. The building operated as a grocery store into the 1970s. Over the following years the building had several owners with various uses, the last as an auto parts store and mechanics garage. The property was purchased by the current owner in 2000 from the Silverhill Baptist Church. The current owner plans to take advantage of the Historic Preservation Tax Credit and rehabilitate the structure for use as a specialty store with living quarters upstairs.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10, photos Page 4

State Bank of Silverhill
Baldwin County, Alabama

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Baldwin County Record Book, pp. 390-391, 501-502.
Corporations of Baldwin County, Book 2, pp. 271-274, 276.
Owen, Thomas Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, Volume 1.
Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921.
Remington, W. Craig and Thomas J. Kallsen. Historical Atlas of Alabama, Volume 1: Historical
Locations by County. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama, 1997.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The State Bank of Silverhill is located at 15950 Silverhill Avenue in Silverhill, Baldwin County, Alabama, and described as Lots 23 and 24 of Block 21 of the Town of Silverhill, Alabama, as per plat thereof recorded in the Miscellaneous Book 1, page 59, Baldwin County Probate Records.

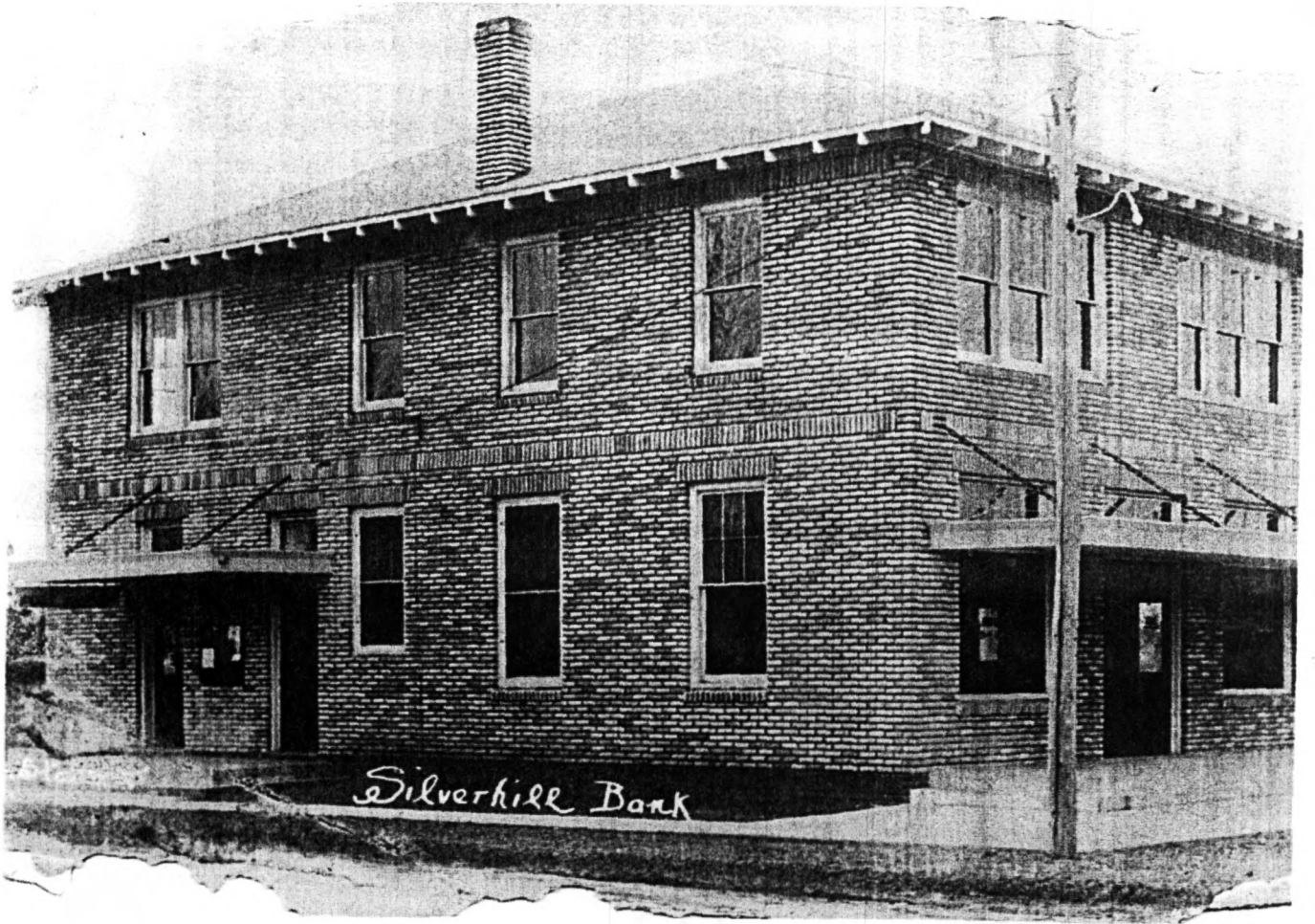
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant historic property associated with the State Bank of Silverhill.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

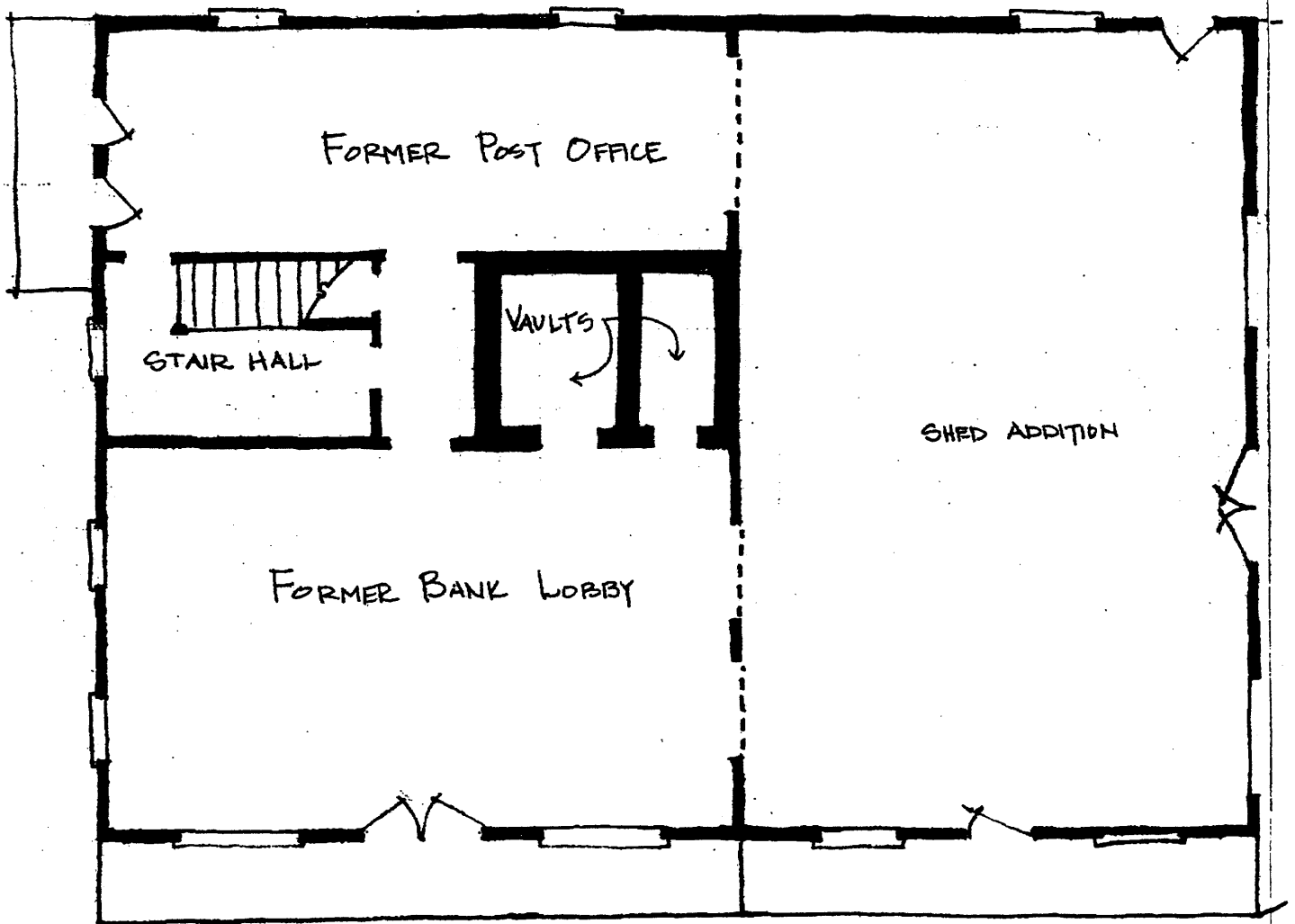
State Bank of Silverhill
Baldwin County, Alabama
Ed Hooker, Photographer
November 2000
Negatives: AHC

1. South and east elevations looking Northwest, showing overall massing of the structure, brick detailing, window design, decorative rafters and roof.
2. North elevation looking south. Front elevation showing relation of main structure to shed addition, symmetrical design of building façade and decorative transoms over first floor main entrance and picture windows.
3. West and south elevations, looking northeast. Side and rear elevations showing shed addition and porch.
4. Interior of original bank lobby, looking north through main double entry doors. Note black and white checkered tile floor, decorative transom and scored stucco walls.
5. Interior of original bank lobby, looking west through cased openings into shed addition. Note original window head heights to the left of each cased opening. Note black and white checkered tile floor, pilaster and beam at ceiling. Note five panel door into vault area.
6. Interior of northeast upstairs room, looking northeast. Note triple six-over-one window sash, pine floors and plaster walls.
7. Interior stairwell, looking northeast. Note design of stair balustrade and newel post, and simple door and window facing.
8. Interior stairwell, looking west. Note hatch to area over vaults between first and second floors. Note design of stair balustrade and newel pilaster.



Silverhill Bank





FIRST FLOOR
STATE BANK OF SILVERHILL
N.T.S.

