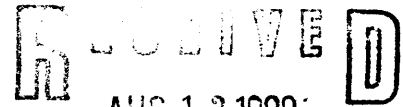


1430

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 Long Beach
other names/site number California National Bank; Bank of America, Metropolitan Building; Enloe Building

2. Location

street & number 101-125 Pine Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Long Beach N/A vicinity
state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 90803

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</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.

Kathryn Gualloni 8-8-90
Signature of certifying official Date

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

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): _____

Arlene Byers 9/13/90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE business
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS
OTHER: Renaissance Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Brickroof Compositeother Terracotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

The First National Bank of Long Beach is a six-story commercial building located on the northwest corner of Pine Avenue and West First Street. Its design of Renaissance Revival inspiration was executed in brick and steel. A clock tower above the corner is the focal point of the building; a rich classical vocabulary of pedimented entries and windows was also employed to emphasize the ground and top floors and the corner. The ground level banking and retail spaces were substantially altered from the exterior in 1938 by the removal of all but one entrance and the application of a blue tile facing. From 1983 through 1989, an extensive rehabilitation project was undertaken, re-creating the ground floor elevations, parapet, and some interior detail in original and substitute materials. Based on the visual evidence of historic photographs, the rehabilitation complements the architectural integrity of the second through sixth floors and the clock tower and returns the building's appearance to its period of significance, 1906. The interior, whose original design had been substantially and continuously eroded over the building's 83-year existence, is being adapted to restaurant, office, and retail uses while retaining what historic fabric remains. Long a visual landmark of downtown Long Beach, the First National Bank building continues in that role today.

DESCRIPTION

The First National Bank building, a six-story plus basement commercial building of rectangular plan, occupies a prominent corner on Long Beach's historic Pine Avenue. Once abutted by two-story structures on both the north and west, the building is now free-standing on all sides but the west where the 1940 former Buffum's Autopark is nearly contiguous. A tripartite organization of base (street level), shaft (second through sixth stories), and capital (cornice and above) is observed in the Renaissance Revival influenced design. Ten bays are defined by the shaft fenestration on the Pine Avenue (east) facade, and five bays are similarly articulated on the First Street (south) elevation. An additional bay, capped by a clock tower, faces the corner. Buff brick encloses the steel frame above the ground level on the primary elevations. Common red brick sheathes the north and west elevations. Pilasters divide the mostly glazed street floor bays into nine unevenly sized bays on Pine and five on First. Above a bracketed overhanging cornice, the building is capped by a flat roof which is hidden by an open parapet.

The differing sizes and treatments of the street level bays correspond to their functions. Two impressive entries of classical design are located on the east in the fourth bay from the north and the third bay from the south. The northern entrance leads to the building lobby. Paneled pilasters frame the broad opening and support a projecting lintel which rests on large, scrolled corbels. The flat-headed opening

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Long Beach

Section number 7 Page 7.1

is spanned by a star patterned open frieze set above scrolled brackets. Blocks adorned with lion's heads and garlands are centered over the pilasters. Paved with hexagonal white tiles accented by colored tiles in a floral design, the entry contains a staircase leading to the basement and a recessed, wood-framed glazed door and transom. The southern entrance is similar but not identical. Slightly larger in scale, it is elevated five steps above street level and is slightly recessed. The pilasters have "X" patterned capitals from which wreaths are suspended. Two composite columns in antis flank the opening. Double and tripartite metal-framed plate glass windows are located north and south of this opening and along the First Street frontage. In the three bays north of the lobby entrance, identical storefronts are defined by recessed central entries with showcase windows to either side of wood-framed doors. Leaded glass transoms composed of small square lights span the facade of each storefront.

Above a belt course at the second floor sill level, the east and south facades of the office shaft and capital are identically detailed. Each bay contains a single, wood-framed, one-over-one, double-hung sash window, except for the third from the south bay on the east, which contains paired sash. The flat-headed openings are recessed approximately six inches, with raised sills and no surrounds on the second through fifth floors. Halfway up the sixth story, panels of floriate carving link the upper level openings, which are framed by corbeled sills and raised surrounds. Broken pediments accented by scroll-topped shields crown these windows. Iron fire escapes rise up the central bays on both elevations. Scroll-edged brackets punctuate an acanthus leaf molding beneath an overhanging cornice. Arched pedestals decorated with lion heads support the railing of the open parapet.

Soaring above the parapet, the Renaissance inspired clock tower culminates the corner bay. Angled to face the intersection of Pine and First, a location at the civic and commercial center of historic Long Beach, the corner bay is singled out for architectural attention. The clock tower is reminiscent of a bell tower and is pierced by paired round-headed openings with clocks facing in each direction. Below it, the arch motif is repeated in the sixth floor window, which is elaborately enhanced with carved spandrels and a shield keystone. The main entrance to the banking room occupies the lower story. Approached by five steps set between scrolled stair walls, the door is framed by pilasters decorated with an interlocking circle pattern. Atop a plain frieze, the pediment contains an incised wreath.

Since the north and west elevations were not visible, no architectural embellishments were employed. The buff brick of the primary facades wraps the northeast corner; otherwise single double hung openings are regularly spaced and unadorned. The painted word "Bank" is barely discernable at the top of the north elevation.

Few original interior spaces or materials remain. The lobby approximates its original configuration and is adorned with elaborately denticulated crown moldings. Identical moldings appear in the former banking room. Stylized composite capitals top the columns and piers in the lobby. Two stairwells are original, located off of the lobby and in the southwest corner of the building. Marble pavers, a polished wood railing, and a

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Long Beach

Section number 7 Page 7.2

brass orb atop the newel post distinguish the lower flight of the lobby stair.

Currently nearing completion, an extensive renovation has recreated many elements which had been stripped from the building over the years. The major alterations to the exterior prior to the present project were the removal of all but the lobby entrance and all of the classical detail at ground level and refacing with blue tile. In 1954 the parapet was removed. At least two fires caused damage, one to the clock tower. Numerous interior remodelings were documented on over 30 permits since the mid thirties; records prior to then were presumably lost in the 1933 earthquake. Over the last five years, the ground floor elevations have been rebuilt according to historic photographs, using fiberglass for the pilasters, door surrounds, parapet, and architectural ornament. Salvaged marble has been utilized at the base of the pilasters and for the exterior stairs. Doors are compatible with the building but do not recreate the originals. The wood framed sash have been repaired or replaced as need; interior dropped ceilings are painted black to suggest shadows when seen from the exterior. Seismic strengthening resulted in an independent system of supports which are aligned with existing walls and columns. Where extant, interior crown moldings, capitals, and lighting rosettes were saved and used to cast new elements to fill in the gaps. The building has been fire-sprinkled as well as brought up to date in its other mechanical systems.

Today, the First National Bank building recalls its days as one of Long Beach's most recognized landmarks. The second through sixth floors were left intact on the exterior through the years. The ground floor and parapet have been returned as nearly as possible to their original designs, using substitute materials. Repaired, the clock once again provides the time to the community.

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1906

Significant Dates

1906

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Train and Williams

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

SUMMARY

The First National Bank of Long Beach is significant architecturally under Criterion C as Long Beach's most notable turn-of-the-century commercial building. Dominating the skyline with its distinctive clock tower, the bank building serves as the "cornerstone" of the Long Beach Central Business District. The building, designed in 1906, is the finest extant example of the commercial work of Train and Williams.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The City of Long Beach was first subdivided in 1880 when William Erwin Willmore, an Englishman, secured an option on 4,000 acres of ranch land from Jotham Bixby, the owner of most of the original Los Cerritos and Los Alamitos ranchos. Envisioning a colony composed of farms, Willmore advertised Willmore City throughout the nation, but by 1884 only a dozen homes had been built. He relinquished his option, which was taken up by a consortium of entrepreneurs, the Long Beach Land and Water Company. The consortium retained Willmore City's original boundaries and renamed the city "Long Beach". The official map of the newly named community was recorded on July 30, 1887, and the city was incorporated in 1897, a year after the organization of the first local bank.

Founded in 1900, Long Beach's second bank, the First National Bank of Long Beach, was housed in a three-story building which had been built in 1896 on the northwest corner of First and Pine. Six years later, the bank replaced this structure with a new one of ambitious design and impressive scale. It was to be the largest bank building in Long Beach for at least a decade, and is the only commercial building of more than three stories in height to have survived in downtown Long Beach from the pre-World War I era. Its distinguished Renaissance Revival architecture, size, and location on Long Beach's main commercial thoroughfare, as well as its landmark

9. Major Bibliographical References

- _____, "The Townsend-Campbell Families." Long Beach Review. Date unknown.
- Case, Walter H. History of Long Beach and Vicinity. (Chicago: The S. J. Publishing Co., 1935).
- Case, Walter H. History of Long Beach. (Long Beach: The Press-Telegram Publishing Co., 1935).
- Guinn, J. M. A History of California. (Los Angeles: Historic Record Co., 1907).
- Hatch, P. E. "Banking and Finance of Long Beach," The Arrowhead, January 1908.
- Wallace, W. H. "Long Beach's Financial Achievements," The Arrowhead, September 1910.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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 .26 acres

UTM References

A

1	1
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3	8	9	6	4	0
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3	7	3	6	9	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

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

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the south 37 feet of the east 4-1/4 inches of Lot 25 and all of Lots 26, 27, and 28, Block 105, Townsite of Long Beach and 1/2 of vacated alley adjacent on north.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that has been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Heumann
organization Leslie Heumann and Associates date January 5, 1990
street & number 321 N. Sierra Bonita Avenue telephone (213) 932-0493
city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90036

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Long Beach

Section number 8 Page 8.1

clock tower, immediately established the First National Bank as one of the most prominent buildings in the young city.

The finest extant example of a commercial commission by Train and Williams, whose work at one time contributed greatly to the character of the central business district of Los Angeles, the First National Bank is the only known work of the firm in Long Beach. Designers of a large number of significant commercial and residential structures in Southern California from the turn of the century, Robert F. Train and Robert E. Williams became associated in 1900. In addition to the First National Bank, Train and Williams commissions included: The George Ira Cochran Residence (1902, West Adams district of Los Angeles, determined eligible as a contributor to a district); The Plaza Methodist Church (1923, in Los Angeles' historic El Pueblo district); the Grosse Building (1905, a 10 story office building in downtown Los Angeles, demolished); the Co-Tenants Building (1910, 627-33 South Broadway, Los Angeles, substantially altered); the Los Angeles Creamery Building (1909); the Miyako Hotel (1908, 250 E. First Street, Los Angeles); the Cawston Ostrich Farm Administration Building (1920, South Pasadena); and a number of school buildings for the Los Angeles Board of Education. A large portion of their designs have been demolished or are in a current state of disrepair, lending more significance to those which are intact.

The year 1900 marked a turning point in the growth of Long Beach, a point well illustrated by its financial history. In 1900 the population of Long Beach was 2252. Its total deposits were \$125,000 and the surplus and undivided profits amounted to \$30,000. The First National Bank opened for business in June of that year. A decade later, in 1910, the population had swelled to 23,000; total deposits were in excess of \$4.3 million and the total capitalization, surplus and undivided profits amounted to \$1.5 million. The First National Bank's initial capitalization of \$25,000 in 1900 was now nearly three quarters of a million dollars in combined capital, surplus, profits, and deposits.

Shaping the growth of Long Beach were the founders and directors of its financial institutions. The founders of the First National Bank included several influential citizens. J. B. Heartwell arrived in Long Beach in 1900, after organizing several Trust and Loan companies in the midwest. In addition to being a founder of the First National Bank and serving as its president, J. B. Heartwell also organized the Citizens Savings Bank and was the president of that institution as well as the Mutual Trust Company. He was also involved in the operations of the Interstate Dock and Lumber Company and the Mutual Building and Loan Company. His son, C. L. Heartwell, joined his father on the board of the First National Bank and served as its first Cashier. He went on to found several other financial institutions, was a director of Citizens Savings Bank, the City Treasurer of Long Beach, and with his father-in-law, the developer of one of the city's most prominent office buildings, the W. W. Lowe Building as well as the Heartwell Building, across the street from the First National Bank. W. W. Lowe was one of Long Beach's first citizens, arriving in 1884. He opened the first store in the fledging town and was appointed the first postmaster by President Cleveland. C. J. Walker came to Long Beach in 1895 and became active in the real estate and insurance businesses. In addition to his involvement with the First

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Long Beach

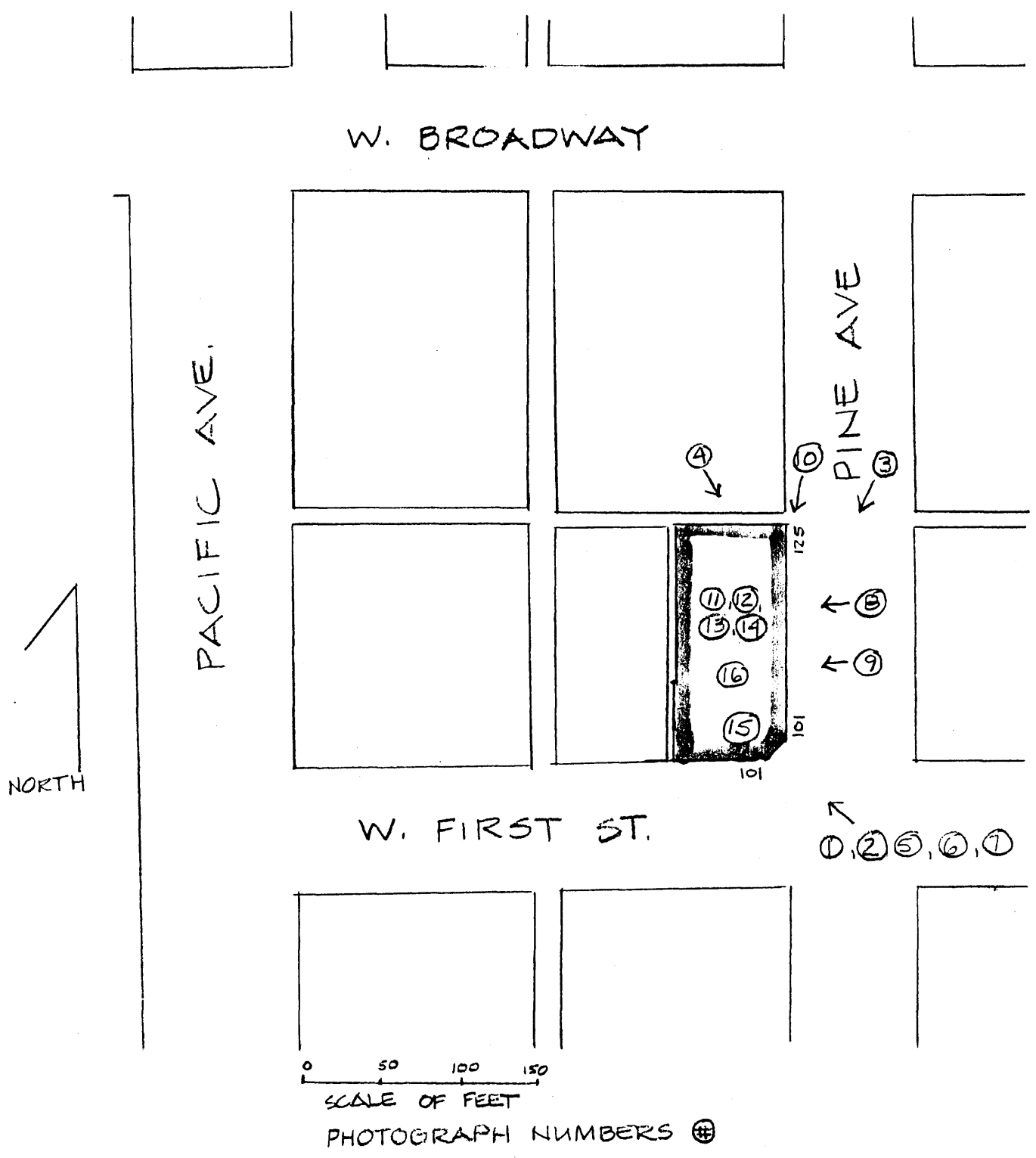
Section number 8 Page 8.2

National Bank, he was a founder and president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, a member of the city board of trustees, and served as the mayor of Long Beach. W. L. Campbell was also a city trustee and land developer who had arrived in Long Beach in 1897. The First National Bank Building is the only extant commercial building from this important period in the city's history that is associated with all of these distinguished residents and entrepreneurs.

The building at 101-125 Pine housed the First National Bank until 1920, when the California National Bank moved in. In 1927 The Bank of America acquired the space, occupying it until 1982. The present restoration was begun in 1983.

Designated a landmark of the City of Long Beach by Ordinance C-6026, the First National Bank building is treasured by the citizens of the city for its exemplification of the architectural and economic heritage of Long Beach. A cornerstone of downtown, the clock by which many set their watches, the tower is a familiar feature of the downtown landscape. One of a handful of buildings that survived the 1933 Long Beach earthquake intact, the building merits consideration for listing in the National Register for its architectural quality, its notable historic associations, and its importance to the early growth of Long Beach.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LONG BEACH



First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Ave.
Long Beach, CA
Los Angeles County

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Long Beach
Section number photograph Page p. 1

RECEIVED

JAN 08 1990

1. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Northwest, showing context and east and south elevations

2. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Northwest, showing east and south elevations

3. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Southwest, showing east and north elevations

4. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: South, showing north elevation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet.**

First National Bank of Long Beach

Section number photos Page p. 2

5. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Northwest, showing southeast corner bay detail
6. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Northwest, showing clock tower detail
7. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Northwest, showing southeast corner bay entrance
8. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: West, showing lobby (north) entrance on east elevation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Long Beach

Section number photos Page p. 3

9. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: West, showing south entrance on east elevation

10. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Southwest, showing storefronts on east elevation

11. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Lobby interior, looking west towards staircase

12. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Lobby interior detail

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Long Beach

Section number photos Page p. 4

13. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Lobby interior detail

14. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Lobby interior detail

15. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Banking room interior

16. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Bill Doggett
Photo Date: December 1989
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Office interior

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Long Beach

Section number ~~photos~~ Page ~~p. 5~~

17. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Unknown
Photo Date: circa 1918
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Northwest, showing east and south elevations

18. First National Bank of Long Beach
101-125 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Photographer: Unknown
Photo Date: circa 1937
Negative: Leslie Heumann
321 North Sierra Bonita Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
View: Northwest, showing east and south elevations