TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

Historic Name: The Bank of College Grove (WM-903)
Common Name: The Bank of College Grove

Classification: Building

Owner: Roy Barker, Barker Realty, Columbia Pike, Franklin, TN 37064

Location: On Highway 31A in College Grove.

Contributing:		Non-Contributing:	
Buildings	1	Buildings	0
Structures	0	Structures	0
Sites	0	Sites	0
Total:	1	Total:	0

Description:

The Bank of College Grove is a one-story brick structure remodeled in 1927. The main entrance retains its original single panel glass and frame design while the secondary entrance in the north bay displays a ca. 1960 glass and frame door. The storefront has its original single-light display windows and four-light, vertical bar transoms over doors and windows. Dividing each bay are Doric brick pilasters with concrete capitals and plinths. Beneath the windows are stone sills and above the windows are recessed brick panels. At the roofline is a stepped parapet with "Bank of College Grove" inscribed in stone. The rear facade has an original one-over-one sash window.

The interior of the building has added wood paneling on the walls and a dropped ceiling. The interior retains original four paneled doors and the decorative bank vault. This vault has a cast iron door with a decorative surround including fluted moldings, Corinthian motif capitals, dentils and a raised panel with an eagle design at the cornice. An original plaster wall divides the building into two rooms which are connected by two four-paneled doors. The building is presently used for two businesses and is part of a small row of commercial buildings in the center of College Grove.

Period of Significance: 1911-1927

Area of Significance: Commerce

Criterion: A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Bank of College Grove is a notable example of an early 20th century bank building and is one of only three significant brick commercial buildings in the county outside of Franklin. The building was used to house the Bank of College

Grove which was the only rural bank of the early 20th century to survive to the present. The bank was opened in 1911 in a frame building at this site. Its chairman was Joseph C. Covington and after its first year the bank had assets of $27,000. For the next two decades the bank continued to be a successful venture reflecting the prosperity of the College Grove community.

Rural banks such as the Bank of College Grove were opened primarily in the late 19th and early 20th century when cultivation and farming was at its peak. The period between 1900 and 1920 has been described as the "golden age of agriculture" in the country and this prosperity was often reflected in the growth and development of banks in rural farming communities. This can be seen in Williamson County where all four rural banks opened in these years. Their existence attests to the prosperity of county farms and farmers in the early 20th century.
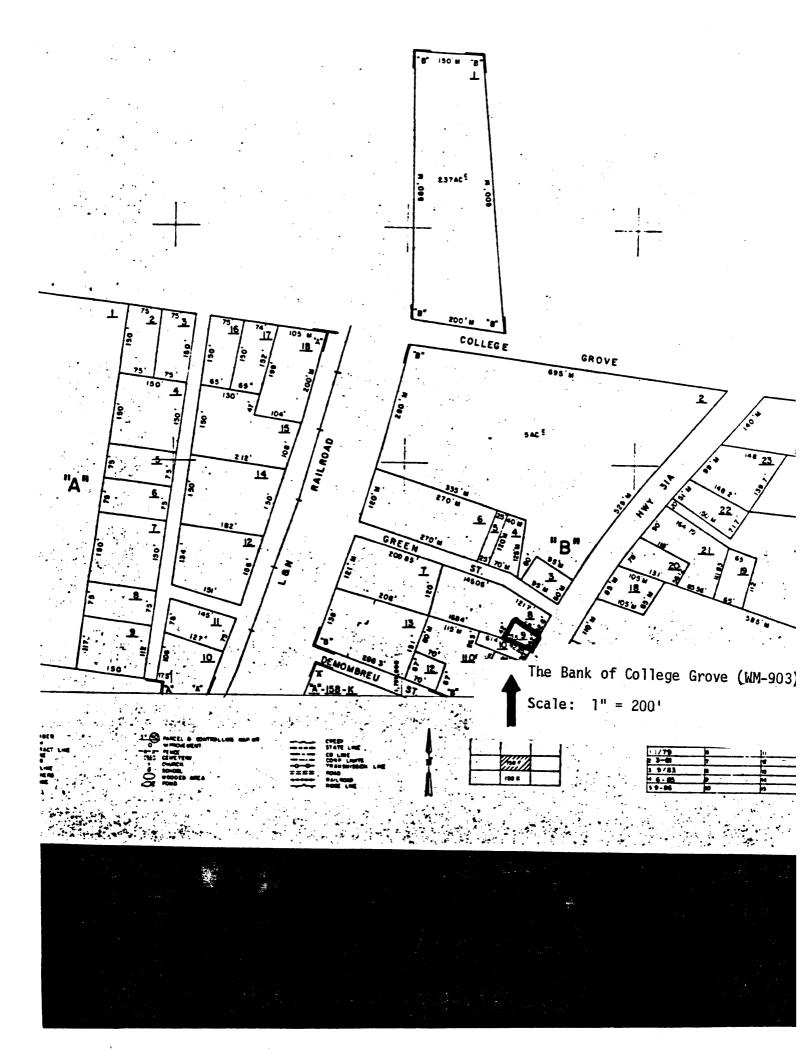
In 1927, the original frame building was remodeled with the addition of a brick veneer and new exterior design. This design was completed with simple classical influences such as its Doric pilasters. Unlike the rural banks in Thompson's Station, Nolensville and Leiper's Fork, the Bank of College Grove managed to remain open during the Depression. In 1965 the bank moved from its original location to a new building next door. The old bank building has since been used for a variety of commercial ventures.

Acreage: Less than one acre
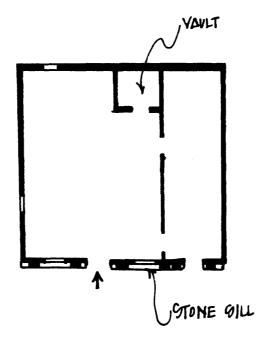
UTM References: College Grove Quad/16/529 250/39600 80

Verbal Boundary and Justification: The boundary for the Bank of College Grove is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 158-F, lot 9. The boundary includes all property historically associated with the bank and is drawn to protect its historical site and setting.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: "Financial Institutions of Williamson County". Bowman.

The Bank of College Grove (WM-903)

Scale: 1" = 200'

#903 THE BANK OF COLLEGE GROVE

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