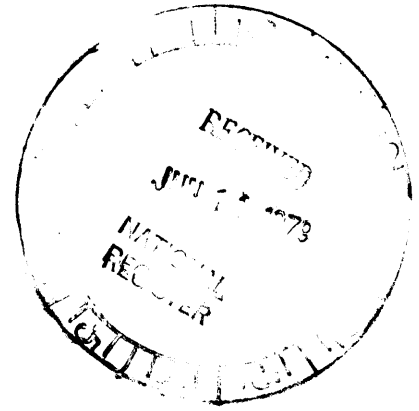


9. HENDERSON NATIONAL BANK
118 South Jefferson Street

Henderson National Bank
Paul Kelly, Vice-President and Controller
118 South Jefferson Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Block 26, Old Town; 45' (Jefferson) X 150'
16 537890 3843030

1948: Warren, Knight and Davis, Birmingham, architects
1958: Lloyd Kranert of Northington, Smith and Kranert, Huntsville,
architect for rear addition



DESCRIPTION

The Henderson National Bank is an Art Moderne design of one-story, balcony, and basement located at the corner of the Public Square. The walls are of smooth, light ashlar while the entrance and base along Jefferson are of contrasting dark green stone. The reveals of the doorway are stepped back to create a vertical emphasis that contrasts with the widely spaced, horizontal ribbons of ashlar in the main wall which create bands of reeding where they cross the entrance frame. Grillwork decorates the huge toplight above the double doors. A tall, multipaned window, framed by reeded panels, flanks the entrance on either side and is repeated along the side wall. The corner of the bank is rounded, and the upper walls are cleanly cut with no cornice. The only decoration is the incised name of the bank below two relief patterns of geometric design. The interior originally had an open balcony across the back that has been enclosed to make a separate department, and the teller's partitions have been altered several times; but the exterior is original except for removal of the corner clock. In 1958 an addition and drive-in window of blond brick were added to the rear.

SIGNIFICANCE

Although the bank is not yet fifty years old, it is a fine example of the Art Moderne style and the only one in downtown Huntsville. The exterior demonstrates the smooth, streamlined design, vertical reeding, stylized low reliefs, and polychromatic effects that are characteristic of the style. By placing Huntsville's few Art Deco and Art Moderne structures on the National Register now while they are still intact, they will achieve a status that may protect them until they are appreciated locally for their architectural merits.