

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **MAY 16 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bank of Dyersburg
and/or common Citizens Bank Building

2. Location

street & number 100 N. Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Dyersburg N/A vicinity of
state Tennessee code 047 county Dyer code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name K. W. Rogers Farms & Realties, Inc.
street & number 408 W. Court Street, P. O. Box 665
city, town Dyersburg N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register's Office of Dyer County
street & number Courthouse
city, town Dyersburg state Tennessee 38024

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date N/A N/A federal state county local
depository for survey records N/A
city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bank of Dyersburg, located in Dyersburg, Tennessee, anchors the northeast corner of the public square. The original two-story rectangular structure (1885) is of commercial Italianate lineage displaying Romanesque influences; an historic three-story addition (ca. 1890) is primarily Romanesque in its styling. The intricacy of the building's primary (west) facade is unmatched among the commercial buildings of Dyersburg's square. The addition continues the architectural vocabulary of the earlier structure, and the two achieve a comfortable symbiosis. Contemporary alterations have seen much of the first floor fenestration bricked in and a new false storefront applied over the original west facade. These alterations are not, however, so disruptive as to deprive the structure of its historic integrity. Indeed, by virtue of its unique design and strategic location, the Bank of Dyersburg occupies a prominent position within the architectural composition of the Dyersburg public square.

Dyersburg's square features a centrally located brick courthouse (1911) surrounded by landscaped open space. The intersection of Main St. (N/S) and Court St. (E/W) forms the northeast corner of the square. The Bank of Dyersburg is situated at the southeast corner of this intersection facing west. The structure's secondary facade, facing Court St., extends along the entire half block from Main St. to an alley. Beyond the alley is a municipally-owned public parking lot. Across Court St. facing the bank is an aluminum-veneered one-story commercial structure constructed within the last decade. South of the bank along Main St., facing the courthouse, is a series of similarly scaled masonry structures (ca. 1900's) characterized by corbelled brick relief. The six-bay building immediately to the south has had the three bays next to the bank severely altered, presenting a monolithic stucco facade. Most of the buildings about the square share a design vocabulary of brick masonry ornamented by corbelled detailing. The bank's use of premanufactured elements on its main facade provides variety and contrast to the square -- while its judicious sense of scale and rhythm prevent it from seeming out of place.

The Bank of Dyersburg (builder unknown) is composed of the original two-story building to the west, and a three-story addition on the east, constructed at a later date. Due to a dearth of archival materials regarding the east structure, its characterization as an addition is based upon the following observations: construction details where the two structures meet clearly show that the east structure postdates the west; the second floor of both structures meet at exactly the same elevation as seen in the hallway which joins them; and the vault's construction in the east building is an original feature as evidenced by its foundation. The similarity of design in the two structures is an additional circumstantial factor.

The building is of brick bearing wall construction rising to a flat roof. The original structure is rectangular in plan, 26' x 80'. It is typically commercial Italianate (but unique in Dyersburg) in its exuberant use of premanufactured elements, particularly in the west facade: cast iron columns, galvanized metal decorative panels, milled woodwork, and a decorative metal cornice. Romanesque elements are introduced here with semi-circular windows between the cast iron columns, creating an arcaded effect; on the north facade one finds corbelled tables and corbelled window ornamentation. The transition from the pre-manufactured assembly of the west facade, with its diagonal corner bay, to the locally

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crafted brick masonry construction of the north elevation is somewhat awkward; however, the disparity between the two facades responds to their hierarchy of primary versus secondary facade, and creates an interesting study in contrast. A vitrolite veneer storefront (ca. 1955) has altered the appearance of the west facade, although the original cast iron columns remain intact behind the false front.

The addition measures 26' x 40', its design most influenced by the Romanesque idiom expressed in the original building--corbelled tables on the second and third stories, and the window treatment of stone springers and keystones. An additional Romanesque element is the oriel corner tower linking the north and east elevations, and visually punctuating the end of the north facade. Much of the first floor fenestration of the addition and the original building has been bricked in -- all upper story windows are presently boarded up, with 50% of the double-hung single light sash missing.

Original Building, West Facade: Ornamental cast iron columns separate this facade into four bays. The northernmost is a diagonal corner bay where the building "turns the corner." A street-level entry to the second floor stairwell occupies the southern bay. The first floor has a new storefront of vitrolite glass with plate glass display windows and a conventional aluminum entry way. A flat aluminum canopy is set at the height of the original transom muntin, with a signboard above. The stairwell entry, originally recessed, has a new door with glass panel set flush with the face of the building. The cast-iron columns remain intact behind the vitrolite veneer. The second floor of the facade is largely intact, with the exception of a decorative wood balcony torn down from the diagonal corner bay. Above a paneled sill with brackets, each bay contained paired double-hung sash, with a wood sunburst panel in each window's transom. Over an intermediate cornice spanning each bay are paired quarter-round windows. The sunburst motif is repeated in galvanized metal below the bracketed metal cornice. A decorative metal cornice with vertical ribs caps the facade. Larger ribs extending above the roof curb in line with the columns below emphasize the facade's division into bays.

Original Building, North Facade: Seven bays, composed of corbelled tables divided by pilasters (paneled at the second floor), develop this facade's rhythm. The end bays are wider than the five equally spaced bays between them. The vitrolite veneer of the west facade extends around the corner to cover the western bay of this facade; the aluminum canopy and signboard obscure portions of the westernmost 2½ bays. Window and door openings of the first floor have been bricked in -- glass block fills the window opening in the west bay and an aluminum frame door occupies the east bay. Double-hung sash remain intact behind the bricked in window openings. Upper and lower story windows of the five central bays feature a segmental arched corbelled hoodmold with limestone springers and keystone. Each end bay of the upper story displays a limestone lintel over paired windows. This feature was originally present in the first floor windows of these two bays. Limestone window sills run from pilaster to pilaster at the first floor. A continuous limestone belt course occurs at the sill of the second story windows. At the roofline, single brackets above each pilaster support a modillioned cornice, with segmental arched panels in the frieze framed by the sunburst motif in the upper corners of each panel -- all in galvanized metal. The eastern one half of the metal cornice is missing due to its recent collapse caused by deteriorated wooden support members. A parapet wall extends two feet above the metal cornice.

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Addition, North Facade: Two sets of paired pilasters running from second floor level to third floor ceiling height divide this facade into three corbelled tables -- a wide central bay flanked by narrower bays. All windows and doorways feature a limestone lugsill and a segmental arch flush with the wall surface. The header incorporates limestone springers and keystone. Paired windows of the central bay are contained within a single segmental arch and feature a scrolled wood motif on the panel below the arched header. A round corner tower of Romanesque descent at the east end of the facade commences with a corbelled oriel base at the second floor level and extends to the roofline. Paired windows centered within the curve of the tower at each floor level display a limestone lugsill and lintel. An original ground level door with sidelights and large transom remains intact below the eastern bay. Six ornamental iron brackets are equally spaced along the facade at second floor level. The roofline is decorated with a corbelled cornice.

Addition, East Facade: Due to its alley frontage, this facade is constructed with common brick of a lesser quality than the face brick found elsewhere on the building. Windows display a segmental header and limestone lugsill, two at each of the floor levels. The circular corner tower is evident at the north end of the facade; its corbelled cornice extends halfway across this facade where it terminates abruptly. An iron ladder begins ten feet above ground level and runs up to the roof.

Interior: Numerous alterations on the first floor have erased most of the original configuration and details. A portion of the original embossed tin ceiling remains in the addition, however. On the second floor, a single-loaded corridor runs along the southern party wall the full length of the building. North-south partitions divide the floor into office-size rooms. The original portion of the building features bulls-eye molding and a wood wainscot with chair rail and baseboard throughout. The trim in the addition is simpler -- continuous molding profiles curving around door and window corners, and a wood wainscot with chair rail. An ornamental metal picture mold ornaments the upper portion of the rooms. A stairwell with balusters leads to the third floor, which echoes the second floor in plan and details. The addition has an unfinished basement with exposed stone foundation walls. The massive stone foundation for the first floor vault occupies the center of the space.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1885; ca. 1890 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bank of Dyersburg (1885; ca. 1890) is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C. The building holds significance for Dyersburg, Tennessee in two areas: the commercial/economic growth of the community, and the building's contribution to the architectural character of Dyersburg's Court Square. Built to house the town's first bank, the Bank of Dyersburg, the building was the site of 39 years of growth. A merger led to relocation, but the resulting institution today is Dyersburg's only remaining locally-founded bank, and the largest in terms of locally-held assets. Architecturally, the building occupies a unique niche among the commercial structures of Dyersburg's Court Square. Brick structures with corbelled decorative elements are predominant about the square; yet the bank building presents a facade which is entirely composed of premanufactured architectural elements. The addition (ca. 1890) utilizes design principles that result in a harmonious structure which is clearly an extension of the original. The addition manages to achieve compatibility with the 1885 structure without attempting to copy it.

The bank was founded in 1880 and known as the Parr and Nolan Bank. It was originally located elsewhere on the square in the rear of the Parr and Nolan Dry Goods Store. In 1885, the bank building was constructed, and the institution operated as the Bank of Dyersburg, with J. W. Parr as president and C. L. Nolan as vice-president. The bank was sold in 1889. New management took over, and the enterprise was renamed the Citizens Bank. This seems the likely period for construction of the addition; a post-card photograph dated 1900 shows the new structure. In 1924 the Citizens Bank merged with First National Bank. "First Citizens National Bank of Dyersburg" was relocated in new quarters; today this scion of Parr & Nolan Bank is the only institution remaining in Dyersburg which was founded there. The ground floor commercial area of the building has since housed a jewelry shop, Western Union, "Peoples Bank" (which quickly defaulted), and drug stores. The building had a reputation as a premium office address. Lawyers, doctors, and dentists were common tenants, including Dr. J. M. Cole, Dentist, and J. A. Green, Lawyer, who were among the members of the first Board of Directors for "First Citizens National Bank" (1924), and Jere Cooper, Congressman.

Architecturally, the assembly of the west facade of the building from premanufactured components represents the only full-scale example of "catalogue" architecture on Dyersburg's square. But it is the composition of the elements which has the greatest impact. A strictly defined order, both horizontal and vertical, is imposed upon the myriad elements, avoiding chaos. Through this means the facade offers a bold statement after the quickest of glances; yet deliberate study reveals a great richness of detail. Along the north facade, the addition succeeds in establishing a sense of relationship to the earlier structure by continuing the architectural vocabulary of the bank's fenestration. Windows in both sections feature limestone springers and keystone in a segmental arch. Each window is located within the recessed plane of its own corbel table; a series of corbel tables then compose the wall surface. The diagonal corner bay on the west and the circular tower at the east corner permit the building to "turn the corner" at both ends of its north facade; thus it responds to the larger context of its site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.1

Quadrangle name Dyersburg, S.W., Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	2	8	5	0	9	0	3	9	9	0	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dan Becker

organization James Williamson/Carl Awsumb/Architects date February 8, 1983

street & number 1700 Lincoln American Tower telephone (901) 526-2800

city or town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hagen

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 4/25/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/16/83

John A. Brown
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The building is currently vacant. Work is underway to restore the metal cornice of the north facade which recently collapsed. It is the owner's intent to upgrade the building interior to permit occupancy by tenants. Full restoration/renovation is expected to proceed in phases.

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Deed Books Y, 2, 47, 48; Registers Office, Dyer County.

Hulme, Albert. A Compilation of the History of Dyer County. Dyersburg; State Gazette, Nov. 2, 1973.

Interviews by Mr. Roy Chandler, December, 1982, with Childress, Mr. Glenn; Cole, Mrs. Martha; Ewell, Mrs. James; Hulme, Mr. Albert; Jacobi, Mrs. C. G.; Jacobi, Mr. James; Lewis, Mrs. K. S.; O'Brian, Mrs. Irene; Rice, Mr. Milton; Scott, Mr. H. P.; Simmons, Mr. Ira; and White, Mrs. P. H.

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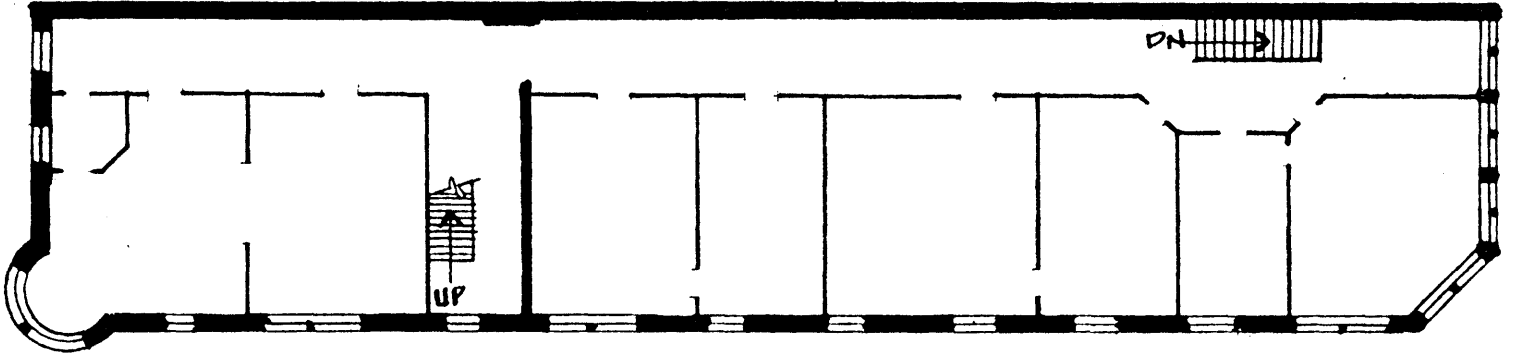
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Beginning at the intersection of the southern side or line of East Court St. and the western side or line of the first alley east of N. Main St.; running thence southerly along the west side or line of the alley 26 feet to a point; thence westwardly parallel with East Court St. 120 feet to a point; thence northwardly along the east side of line of N. Main St. 26 feet to a point; thence eastwardly along the southern side or line of East Court St. 120 feet to the beginning.

This boundary is drawn to reflect the lot which the building occupies, that being parcel 13 in Dyersburg, and which has sold intact with the building through the years following its construction.

BANK OF DYERSBURG -- DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE



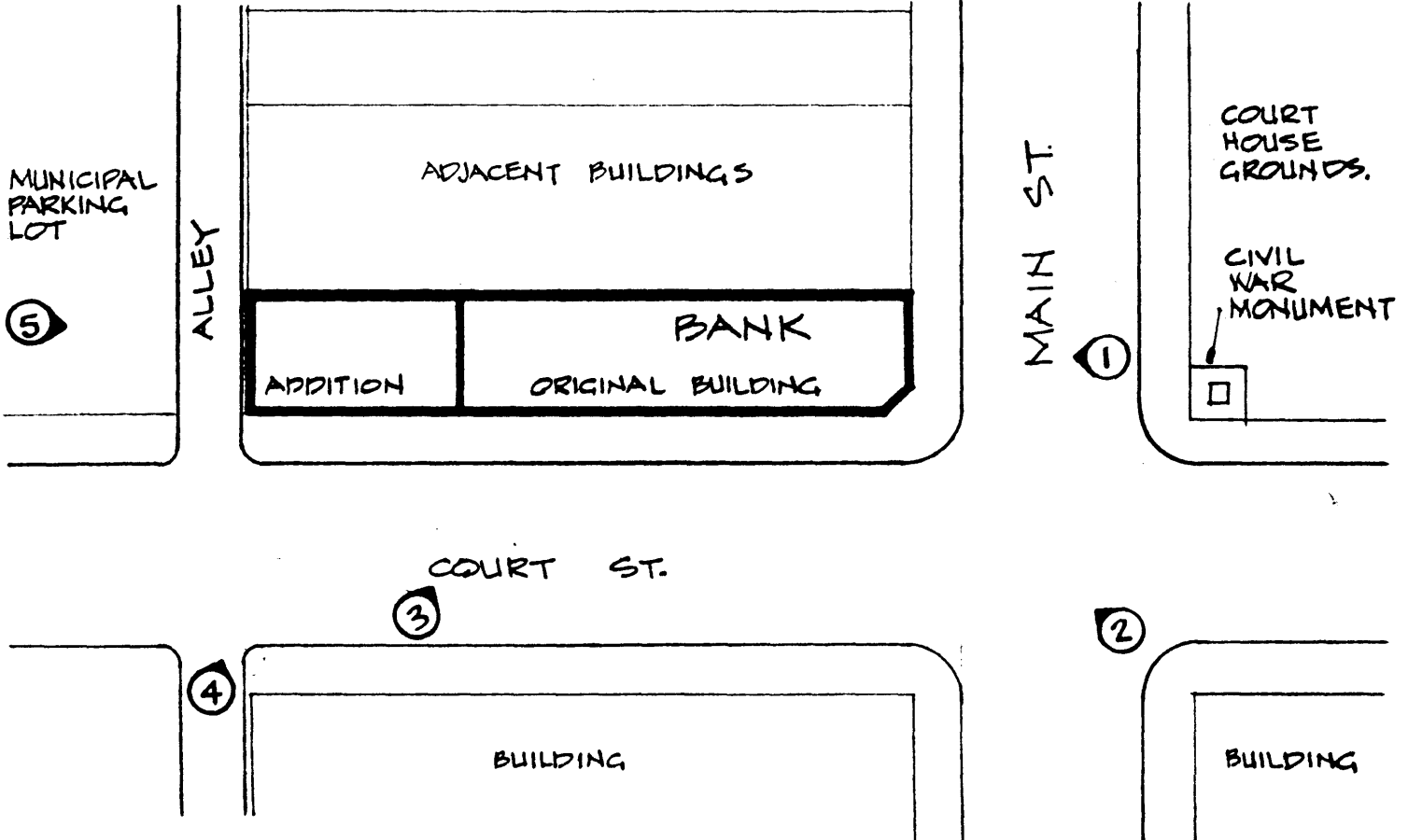
Bank of Dyersburg
100 N. Main Street
Dyersburg, Dyer County, Tennessee

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

NO SCALE



Sketch Map



SITE PLAN

NO SCALE

