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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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      Bank of Surrency  
other names/site number      Surrency Post Office

## 2. Location

street & number      80 Hart Street  
city, town      Surrency      ( ) vicinity of  
county      Appling      code GA 001  
state      Georgia      code GA      zip code      31563

( ) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- ( ) private
- (X) public-local
- ( ) public-state
- ( ) public-federal

### Category of Property:

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

### Number of Resources within Property:

### Contributing

### Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**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 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 the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

*Richard Clowes*

*12-9-02*

Signature of certifying official

Date

*for*

W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

*Charles F. Beall* *1/31/03*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

GOVERNMENT: post office

### Current Functions:

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial Building

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	BRICK
<b>walls</b>	BRICK
<b>roof</b>	ASPHALT
<b>other</b>	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Located in southeast Georgia, the Bank of Surrency is located at the corner of Main and Hart Street in the small, rural town of Surrency in Appling County, Georgia. Once the anchor of a series of commercial buildings, the bank remains the only historic building in the once-thriving downtown.

Constructed in 1911, the Bank of Surrency is a one-story, rectangular, brick commercial building with a flat roof (photograph 1). The building features its original unpainted brick with simple cast-concrete details. The building features a slight stepped parapet roof with round, blind arches along the cornice. Cast-concrete details on the building include coping along the roof, flat lintels and sills on the windows, decorative, square hoods over the windows on the west side of the building, and a water table (photographs 2-4). A decorative cast-concrete square hood with enlarged keystone is located on the front façade along with two flat, circular medallions bearing the date of construction (1911). The building also features a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Benchmark marker dated 1917 on the front façade (photograph 6).

The interior of the building consists of one large main room with an office/main carrier's room and a vault room at the rear of the building. The original post office counter and post boxes were removed from the main room when the building ceased operation as a post office. The building retains its original plaster walls and part of its ceiling as well as tongue-and-groove wainscoting, wood window and door surrounds, and wood baseboards (photographs 7-9). The interior of the vault room retains its original metal ceiling (photograph 5).

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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The building is located on a corner lot and fronts the railroad tracks. The bank building is the only remaining historic commercial building in downtown Surrency.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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):**  N/A

A       B       C       D       E       F       G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
COMMUNICATIONS

**Period of Significance:**

1911-1952

**Significant Dates:**

1911—date of construction  
1911-1921—served as the only bank in Surrency  
1926-1952—served as the Surrency Post Office

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

N/A

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8--Statement of Significance**

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Located on the corner of Hart and Main streets in the small, rural town of Surrency in Appling County, Georgia, the Bank of Surrency is significant as the only remaining historic commercial building in the downtown and for providing two important services (banking and post office) for the community during the historic period.

The Bank of Surrency is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of a small town, brick, commercial building built as a bank with minimal cast-concrete detailing. The building was constructed in 1911 and retains its original exterior materials including simple, cast-concrete ornamentation. The building also retains its original interior materials including wood door and window surrounds, plaster walls and ceiling, and wood wainscoting.

The Bank of Surrency is significant in the area of commerce for its important role in the local community as the only bank in Surrency from 1911 to 1921. Constructed in 1911 to house the local branch of the Baxley Banking Company, the building is a good example of a small town bank, which anchored the once-thriving community of Surrency.

The building is also significant in the area of communications for serving as Surrency's fifth post office from 1926 to 1960. The Baxley Banking Company closed in 1922, and the building was sold to F.D. Kennedy and J.M. Kennedy. The building served as a post office from 1926 to 1960 and as such, was the center of community activity during this time. A new post office was constructed in 1960 and the building was sold for storage.

**National Register Criteria**

The Bank of Surrency is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a good example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick commercial building. The building is also eligible under Criterion A as an important center of commerce and communications as the only bank in the small town of Surrency and as the Surrency Post Office from 1926 to 1960.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the date of construction for the building, 1911, and ends with the end of the historic period, 1952. The building was constructed for use as a bank in 1911 and was the only bank in town until 1921. After the bank's foreclosure, the building served as the town post office from 1926 to 1960.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The only building on the property is the bank building, which is contributing.

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

**NOTE: The following developmental history was prepared by Robin Nail, Preservation Planner, Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Development Center. "Bank of Surrency," Historic Property Information Form, July 22, 1999. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The Georgia State Legislature created Appling County in 1818 out of lands formerly occupied by the Creek Indians. Named in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Appling, a hero during the War of 1812, the county originally encompassed all of present-day Bacon, Jeff Davis, Pierce, and Ware counties as well as portions of Atkinson, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Echols, Telfair, and Wayne counties. Many of Appling County's early settlers came from the Carolinas and the counties north of the Altamaha River. The first recorded white settlement was located at Carter's Cowpens in the Padgett Community (south of Baxley). Largely due to unsettled conditions along what was then Appling County's western boundary, ten years passed before the county's first seat of government was established at Holmesville in 1828. The completion of the Macon and Brunswick Railroad through Appling County in 1870 led to early development of Baxley, originally known as Station Number 7 because of its location along the railroad.

The future site of Surrency was settled in the early 1850s by Allen Powell Surrency, a Tattnall County native. Surrency, who became a prominent businessman and local civic leader, initially operated a sawmill and owned the only general store in the area. Like Baxley, the community was known by its railroad station (Number 6) prior to being named Surrency in honor of its founder. The Town of Surrency was locally incorporated in 1904, and the Georgia General Assembly chartered the town in 1911. During its heyday in the early 1900s, Surrency was recognized as the "crosstie center of the world" with as many as five train carloads shipped a day. At that time, a number of businesses were located in Surrency, including six general stores, a grocery store, a drugstore, a bank, two hotels, a cotton gin, and grist mill.

S. (Silas) M. Johnson, who owned a general store, donated a 22' x 50' lot at the northeast corner of Main and Railroad streets in Surrency to the Baxley Banking Company on August 16, 1911. The property, which was part of original Lot Number 260 in the Third District, as well as a portion of Lot Number 12 of the Surrency survey, was located adjacent to other land owned by Johnson and at the corner of Surrency's main commercial block fronting the railroad tracks. As part of the agreement, Baxley Banking Company was to construct a brick bank building 40 feet in length on the site. Johnson was to own one-half interest in the wall located on the east side of the building. On December 4, 1911, Johnson transferred the same lot plus an additional 31 feet on the north and south, resulting in a 22' x 81' lot, to The Baxley Banking Company for \$25.00. Part ownership of the bank building's east wall was not mentioned in this document. A handsome brick bank building with

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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fine exterior detailing was erected on the site in 1911.

The Baxley Banking Company, which was organized in 1896, started a branch bank in Surrency in 1911 called the Bank of Surrency. Another branch bank was located in Alma. Employees at the Surrency branch included Paul Doster, C.C. (Chip) Johnson, H. Odell Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Tyre, and Charlie Hart. Sometimes Johnson (cashier) worked at night at the bank, which gave him the chance to visit with a friend who worked on the train passing through Surrency. He would get on the train and visit until it stopped for water at which time he would hop off and return to work. On one evening, the train did not stop for water, and Johnson had to ride the ten miles to Baxley, pay the fare, and walk the railroad track back to the bank. When he arrived, he found that the kerosene lamp he left burning had smoked up the walls, thus causing the bank to need to be painted.

The Baxley Banking Company and its branch banks apparently did well for a time, listing resources of \$1,004,071.31 in 1919. However, all three banks closed in January, 1921. The Baxley Banking Company reopened in July, 1921 with the backing of Mills B. Lane, but it is uncertain as to whether the Surrency branch reopened as well. This attempt to save the bank failed, and it closed permanently on May 26, 1922. T.R. Bennett, Superintendent of Banks of the State of Georgia, took charge of The Baxley Banking Company's assets for liquidation at that time.

On June 7, 1924, F.D. Kennedy and J.M. Kennedy purchased the Surrency Bank property, including "a one story brick building and all fixtures connected therewith," for \$1,200. Four days later on June 11, 1924, J.M. Kennedy gave his interest in the property to F.D. Kennedy for \$1.

The former Bank of Surrency building became home for Surrency's fifth post office in 1926, serving for more than 30 years until the new facility was constructed in 1960. Postmasters at this location included: Emma S. Brindle, James C. Ross, Mrs. Ceres C. May, Robert S. Wolfe, and Carr McLemore.

F.D. Kennedy retained ownership of the property until September 16, 1965 when he gave it to Curtis C. Herndon for \$1. In recent years, the building has been used for sweet potato storage and has been allowed to deteriorate. The City of Surrency purchased the property in July 1999 for \$3,900 with plans to preserve it for possible use as a local museum/visitor's welcome center.



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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Barron, Ruth T., comp. Footprints in Appling County, 1818-1976. Appling County Board of Commissioners, 1981.

Nail, Robin. "Bank of Surrency," Historic Property Information Form, July 22, 1999. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:
- 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:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      0.04 acre.

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 17      Easting 386435      Northing 3510310

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached tax map with a heavy, black line, drawn to scale, encompassing Lot 66 and right-of-way on the west and south.

### **Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundary is the current legal boundary including the right-of-way and comprises the historic acreage associated with the building.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101  
**city or town** Atlanta      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840      **date** December 6, 2002  
**e-mail** gretchen\_brock@dnr.state.ga.us

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)**(  ) not applicable

**name/title** Robin Nail, Senior Preservation Planner  
**organization** Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Development Center  
**mailing address** 331 West Parker Street  
**city or town** Baxley      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 31513  
**telephone** (912) 367-3648  
**e-mail** hogardc@altamaha.net

- (  ) **property owner**  
(  ) **consultant**  
(  ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
(  ) **other:**

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Mayor Mark Tomberlin  
**organization (if applicable)** City of Surrency  
**mailing address** PO Box 162  
**city or town** Surrency      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 31563  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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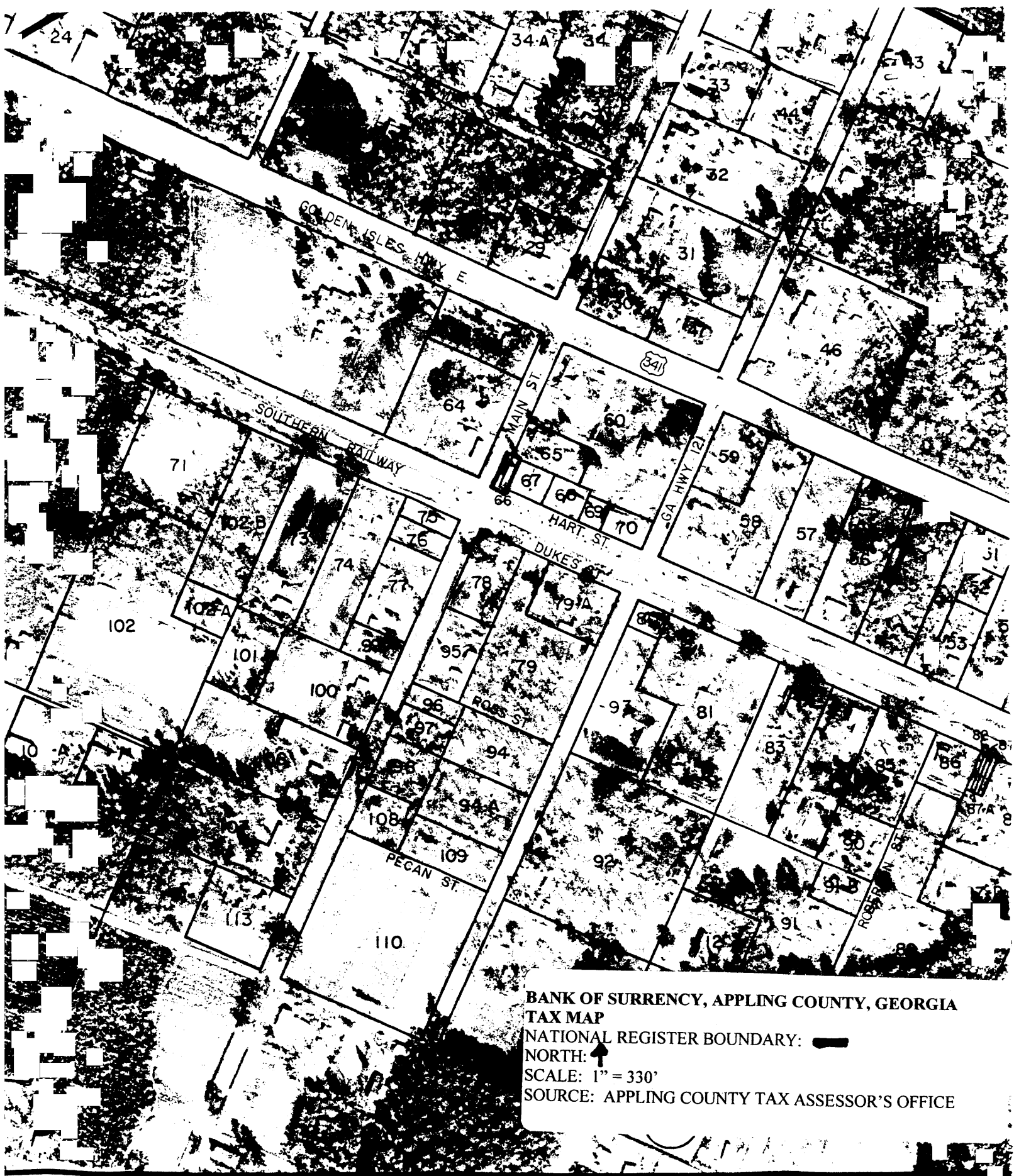
**Name of Property:** Bank of Surrency  
**City or Vicinity:** Surrency  
**County:** Appling  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** January 2000


**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 9

1. Front façade; photographer facing northeast.
2. Front and west facades; photographer facing east.
3. Front and east facades; photographer facing northwest.
4. West and rear (south) facades; photographer facing south.
5. Interior, detail of vault room; photographer facing north.
6. Exterior, detail of U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Benchmark; photographer facing northeast.
7. Interior; photographer facing southwest.
8. Interior; photographer facing north.
9. Interior; photographer facing northeast.

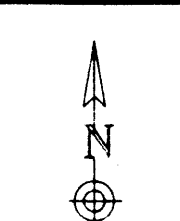
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



BANK OF SURRENCY, APPLING COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 TAX MAP  
 NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: **—**  
 NORTH:   
 SCALE: 1" = 330'  
 SOURCE: APPLING COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE


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 ville, Ky.  
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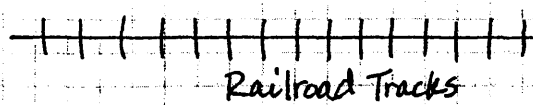
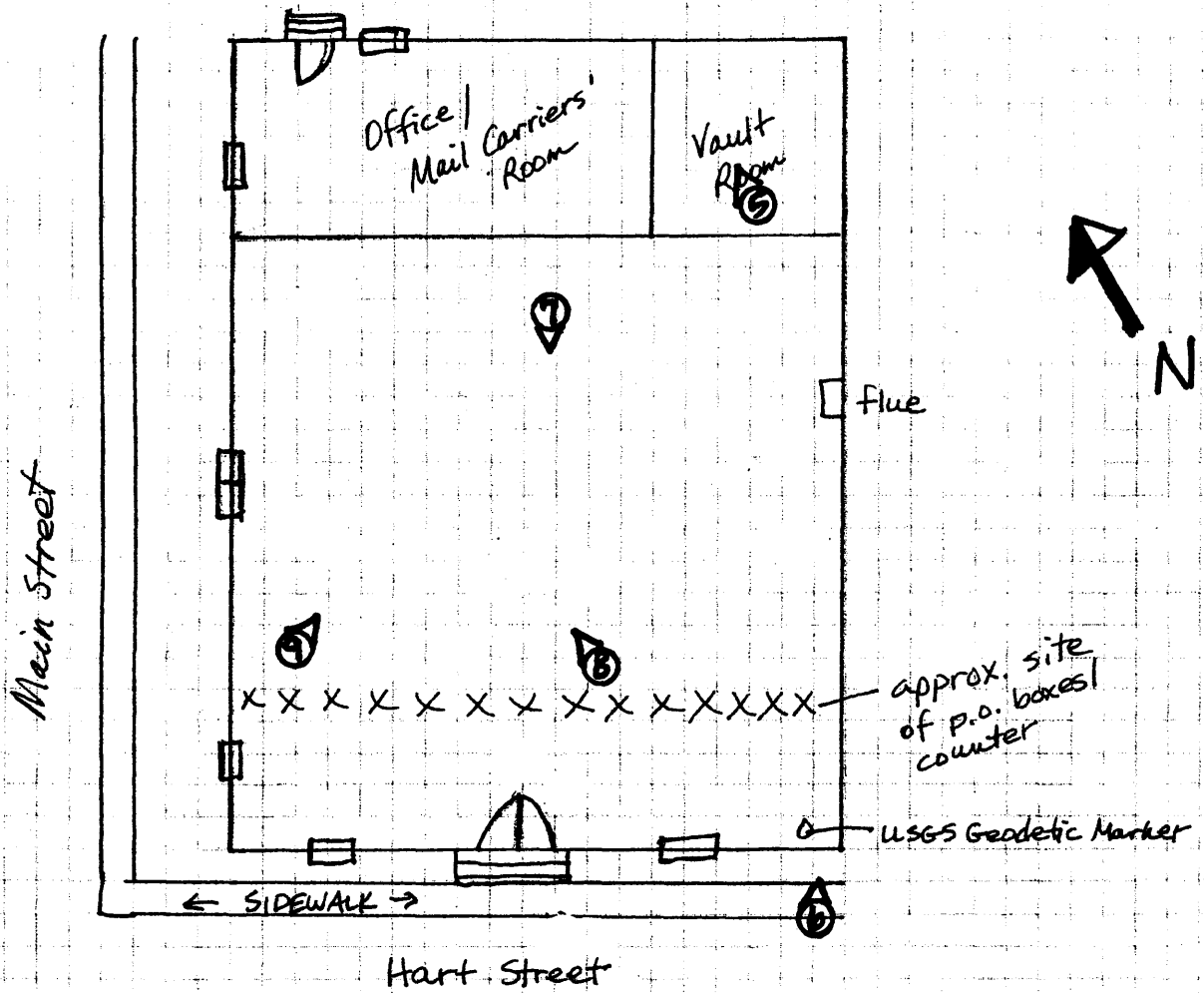
GENERAL NOTES



DATE

REVISION

**BANK OF SURENCY, APPLING COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**FLOOR PLAN/SKETCH MAP**  
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①  
 NORTH:   
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 SOURCE: ROBIN NAIL



BANK OF SURENCY/P.O.  
 SITE PLAN / FLOOR PLAN

NTS  
 HOGA RDC, 7/99