

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 6 1978

DATE ENTERED

AUG 24 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Peoples Bank and Trust Company

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

211 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tupelo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Mississippi

VICINITY OF

CODE
28COUNTY
LeeCODE
081 ✓**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Peoples Bank and Trust Company

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 709

CITY, TOWN

Tupelo

STATE

Mississippi 38801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk
Lee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Tupelo

STATE

Mississippi 38801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1977

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Peoples Bank and Trust Company is a two-story, limestone-veneered building facing north in the Tupelo central business district. The monumental three-bay facade is anchored by two entrances set within pedimented architraves surmounted by cartouches and flanked by pilasters with capitals articulated in rosettes and moldings (bead and reel; egg and dart). A large round-arched window with keystone and architrave trim is centered in the central bay. The upper portion of the window is composed of beveled, leaded glass with a Christmas wreath design of holly and berries in green and red.

A full entablature divides the first and second floors, with the fenestration of the latter expressed in two contrasting geometric forms: round-arched window openings in the outer bays, accentuated by hood molds; and two rectangular windows in the inner bays. The bracketed, dentiled cornice is decorated with standards carrying multiple stone globes and is surmounted by a plain parapet. The projecting bay of the east side of the building has a first-floor pedimented and enframed window and a second-floor round-arched window with hood mold. The rest of the east wall has seven flat-arched, fixed-window openings on the first floor and eleven double-hung openings on the second floor.

The original floor plan consisted of banking offices and board room on the first floor and several dentists' offices on the second floor, reached from a stairway at the north entrance. The entrance way is now sealed and used as a night depository. After a fire in 1918, a two-story banking space was created in the front two-thirds of the building and a vault and second-story office space in the rear third. A balcony was added to the rear portion of the banking space during the 1950s.

A continuous molding dividing the first and second floors of the interior provides a base for pilasters with recessed panels and acanthus leaf designs in low relief. Pilaster capitals have brackets that support boxed ceiling beams which form coffers, now filled with fluorescent lighting fixtures. All of the extant furnishings are of contemporary design. In preparation for the restoration of the building, bank officials have recovered original brass and iron cages, brass railings, a spittoon, directors' tables, and the earliest ledgers used by the institution. These will be displayed in a restored board room on the second floor and in an area on the first floor accessible to customers.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Founded in 1904, Peoples Bank and Trust Company is Mississippi's eighth largest banking institution (The Mississippi Banker p. 12) and plays an important role in the financial affairs and economic development of Tupelo and the northern part of the state. The bank has overcome severe economic and physical hardships, including the Great Depression and the 1936 tornado which killed 233 Tupelo residents and devastated forty-two city blocks (South Reporter, April 9, 1936). Constructed in 1905, the building is architecturally a handsome local example of the monumental Beaux Arts style, adapting Greco-Roman detail to the exterior and interior finish and expressing, despite its modest scale, the prominent position of this pioneer banking institution.

The enthusiastic application of classical elements on the facade of the building exhibits the ambitious attempt to create a monumental structure in the context of Tupelo's early commercial district. Furthermore, the limestone veneer provides a formalistic effect in contrast to the brick and pressed-metal facings of other downtown buildings. The academic intent of the architectural composition is established on the exterior by intensive use of pediment and round arch, hood mold and flat arch, architraves, applied pilasters, cartouches, dentils, and consoles; on the interior, it is expressed by coffers and highly ornamented pilasters.

A fire in 1918 extensively damaged the interior of the building. A. T. Heussler, a St. Louis architect, was commissioned to renovate the interior, completing the project in 1919 (McMillan interview, April 11, 1978). Peoples Bank was closed for four years during the Great Depression, and the reopening was affirmed by a U.S. Supreme Court decision. The plan to reopen the bank on May 24, 1933, approved by the depositors' committee, a majority of bank depositors, the Mississippi Banking Commission, and the chancery clerk of Lee County, was appealed to the Supreme Court by two objecting bank depositors. The Court agreed to hear the case and, on June 5, affirmed the bank's reopening plan (Stockholders Meeting Minutes, June 8, 1934). By 1973, Peoples Bank had paid back 75 per cent (one hundred seventy-five dollars for every one hundred dollars) of the funds owed all depositors affected by the 1929 closing (McMillan interview, April 11, 1978).

Peoples Bank has grown considerably in seventy-four years, from an initial deposit value of \$30,250 in March, 1904 (Statement of Condition, October 13, 1904), to total assets of \$180,056,407 in March, 1978 (The Mississippi Banker p. 12). In 1952, the bank installed the first drive-in facility in northern Mississippi and, in 1963, expanded the banking offices of the original facility to a building adjacent to the 1905 structure. Currently, Peoples Bank operates

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gold, Jack A., architectural historian. Personal inspection, March 20, 1978.

Gold, Jack A., architectural historian. Personal interview with C. C. Eason, former president, Peoples Bank and Trust Company, April 14, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Tupelo, Miss.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 343030 3791800

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

North side faces Main Street. An alley on the east side passes south and west around the south side. Building with party on the west side. Thirty-foot frontage, 100 feet deep. Lot No. 6, City of Tupelo.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack A. Gold, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer R. Hilliard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 31, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: *Charles A. ...*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE *8/28/78*
 DATE *8-27-78*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

seven offices in Tupelo, with eight branches located in Prentiss, Pontotoc (Bank of Pontotoc), and Clay (Clay City Bank and Trust Company) counties (Peoples Annual Report, 1977 p. 1). Construction of a new downtown banking and office facility will begin in 1979.

Peoples Bank has supported and encouraged municipal improvements for Tupelo, such as the donation in 1966 of road frontage along Eastern Boulevard for street improvements (Eason interview, April 14, 1978) and the donation in 1936 of eleven acres for the construction of Tupelo's North Mississippi Community Hospital, now called the Northern Mississippi Medical Center (Deed Book 268:109). The interest of the bank in the physical improvement of downtown Tupelo is currently reflected in the restoration plans underway for the subject property.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gold, Jack A., architectural historian. Personal interview with Wallace McMillan, vice president, Peoples Bank and Trust Company, March 29, 1978; April 11, 1978.

Gresham, V., Jr. From Settlement to Industrial Community. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1975.

Holly Springs (Miss.) South Reporter, April 9, 1936.

Lee County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 268:109. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

Mississippi Bank Directory, 1940-1943. Published by the Mississippi Bankers Association.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Subject File. Tupelo.

Morse, William Clifford. Mississippi State Geological Survey, Bulletin 31. Oxford: University of Mississippi, 1936.

Peoples Annual Report: 1977. Annual Report of Peoples Bank and Trust Company, December 31, 1977.

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The Mississippi Banker. Publication of Mississippi Bankers Association.
62 (1978):12.

Tupelo Journal, May 12, 1905; November 24, 1905.

Tupelo (Miss.) Industrial Review, December 15, 1901.

United States. Works Progress Administration. Lee County, Mississippi. Source Material for Mississippi History: Preliminary Manuscripts. Compiled by Statewide Historical Research Project. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.