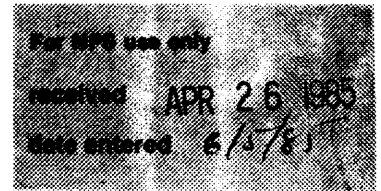


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Historic Resources of Item number Page 40
Downtown South Bend

Farmers Security Bank
133 S. Main Street
141-56168-598
d. 1915

OWNER: Jefferson Building
Partnership
c/o Marvin J. Ree
17835 Ventura Blvd.
P.O. Box 155
Encino, CA 91316

Description:

Photo #42-46; Building #25

The Farmers Security Bank Building is located on the southeast corner of Main and Jefferson Streets and is in the West Washington National Register District.

The six-story structure of dark brown brick with terra-cotta trim has a two-story rectangular plan which becomes an H-plan on the upper four floors. The majority of the windows are paired in the highly articulated pier and spandrel walls. The first floor contains tall three-pane windows with triple light transoms. The first floor of the east facade has been modernized with marble and narrower windows. The cornice line of the structure, which rises almost a floor in height, is almost entirely of terra-cotta. The sixth floor windows are surmounted with a round-arched terra-cotta arcade, and the spandrel area above is filled with alternating colors of terra cotta tiles. The pavilion ends of the north and south elevations have a low angle gable line.

Designed by the Chicago architectural firm of Perkins, Fellows and Hamilton, the Farmers Security Bank was built in 1915. In 1925, as the result of mergers, the building was renamed the Associates Building. After the First Bank and Trust Company moved into the building in 1940, the title was again changed. It is still known as the "First Bank Building," although the bank moved in 1982.

Architecturally, the building is the most significant example of the Chicago style of architecture in South Bend. The Farmers Security Bank building, prominent with its dark brick and terra-cotta trim, suggests the Art Deco style that would not become popular until ten years later.

In 1939-1940, the bank building underwent a major remodeling when the First Bank and Trust Company moved in. This consisted of interior changes that still exist in the bank lobby and office entrance (photo #45). It was during the 1939-40 remodeling that an electric door opener was added, the first electric door opener in the city.

The exterior of the building remains for the most part unaltered except for a 1960 modernization. At that time, marble paneling and new windows and doors were added on the first story.

UTM Reference: 16/562260/4613770

Acreage: Less than one acre

Legal:

Lots 251-252 Original Plat of South Bend
East 1/2 vacant alley adjacent West End - Lot 252 and South 22'
Lot 251
Parcel #18-3006-0182