

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

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

1. Name

historic Union Banking Company Building

and/or common Coffee County Bank

2. Location

street & number 102 Peterson Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Douglas N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Georgia code 013 county Coffee code 069

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Coffee County Bank/ Ken B. Lanier, President

street & number Lock Drawer 431

city, town Douglas N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31533

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Coffee County Courthouse

city, town Douglas state Georgia 31533

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records None

city, town state

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 Union Banking Company Building, constructed in 1910-1911, is a three-story commercial building with a parapet roof, located on a corner lot in downtown Douglas, Coffee County, Georgia. Retail stores and a bank are located on the first floor with office space above.

The structure is rectangular, framed with reinforced concrete posts and beams, with poured concrete floors and a brick facing laid in Flemish bond. The bank has two finished facades facing the street with the main entrance to the bank at the curved southwest corner of the building. Walls are detailed with groups of windows outlined with bricks and brick spandrels highlighted with decorative brick work in the shape of circles and diamonds. The main trabeated entrance has double doors with an entablature and tall, narrow side lights formed by decorated pilaster-like supports, all of cast concrete. A segmentally arched entrance providing street access to the second floor is located near the building's north-west corner. The bank's brick parapet-cornice is highlighted with a terra-cotta shield at the rounded corner and ten terra-cotta gargoyles with garlands delineating the building's bays. The original storefronts have been remodeled, and all windows on the bank's street fronts have been replaced, those in the bank lobby with large aluminum frame windows and those on the second and third floors (originally three-over-one double hung wood sash) with one-over-one aluminum sash. The original double wood doors at the main entrance have been replaced with aluminum frame doors.

The interior spaces of the building are arranged around the concrete structural system. The bank lobby is a large room in the southwest corner. In recent renovations (1968-69 and 1973-74) it was extensively remodeled, but the original exposed ceiling beams, pier capitals and deep molded cornice are still in place under the new dropped accoustical tile ceiling. During the same remodeling, the first floor bank area was expanded to include two of the four store spaces and the second floor offices were also adapted for use by the bank. An elevator and a dropped accoustical tile ceiling on the second floor were added at this time. Some rearrangement of space has occurred on the second floor, but the basic layout of offices opening off a central stairhall remains nearly intact. On the presently unused third floor, many of the original finish details are still in place. Offices have ceilings with exposed concrete beams, plaster walls with chair and picture rails, and hallway doors with transoms above. The eastern section of the third floor was originally one large room, approximately 40' by 60', used as a meeting area by various clubs. At some point it was subdivided with frame partitions.

The bank is located on a corner lot in the historic commercial area of downtown Douglas. It has an alley along its north side and abuts the building to the east. The Union Banking Company Building extends to the sidewalk line and has no landscaping. It is situated at an important corner, diagonally across from the courthouse.

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/ 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 1910-1911 **Builder/Architect** R. N. McEachren, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Union Banking Company Building is historically significant in the areas of architecture and commerce. Architecturally, the bank is a fine example of an early-twentieth century commercial structure in Douglas. It combines typical commercial style design elements of the period with unique decorative features, in particular the unusual terra-cotta gargoyles. The very early use of reinforced concrete for the building's framing system makes it technically innovative. In terms of commercial history, the building is significant as the home of two banks important to the development of Douglas and Coffee County. A bank has been located on this important corner across from the courthouse since 1899 when the Union Banking Company built its first structure on the site.

The bank is an excellent example in Douglas of the type of commercial style building which was becoming popular nationwide in the early years of the twentieth century. Its restrained, rather streamlined exterior detailing which accentuates its underlying structure, its use of brick facing and terra-cotta ornament, and its interior finish details are all typical of this style. However, the main corner entrance and the unique gargoyles, although fabricated of modern materials, are somewhat reminiscent of late-Victorian commercial architecture. The building is stylistically an interesting transitional building. Structurally, the bank is innovative. Its concrete skeleton and poured concrete floors document a construction technique that first came into general use during the ten years before it was employed here. The bank was the first building so designed in the surrounding area, and it attracted widespread interest while under construction. The choice to use this new method of construction resulted from the burning of the previous bank building and the desire of the Union Banking Company's officers to replace it with a fireproof structure.

The Union Banking Company Building is associated with two banks important to the economic development of Coffee County and is therefore significant to the commercial history of the area. Douglas, until the arrival of two railroads in 1895 and 1898, was a country hamlet. With the railroads came business, schools and general development. The Union Banking Company, established in 1897 as Douglas's first bank, served Douglas as it expanded from a village to a prosperous railroad town. The original bank building constructed in 1899 burned and was replaced by the present structure in 1911. In 1930 the Union Banking Company closed its doors, a victim, along with many other banks across the country, of the Depression. The Coffee County Bank was established in 1931 to provide the community once again with needed banking services. Located in the Union Banking Company Building, which it later bought, the Coffee County Bank grew steadily during the Depression years and continues to serve the area today.

"Continued"

9. Major Bibliographical References

Shipp, William R. "Historic Property Information Form: Coffee County Bank." November 1981. On file Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resource, Atlanta.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.16 acres
 Quadrangle name Douglas North, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	3	2	4	2	9	0	3	4	8	7	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

 C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

 E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

 G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

 D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

 F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

 H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes the 100' x 70-foot city lot presently and historically associated with the bank building.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher
 organization Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date October 12, 1982
 street & number 270 Washington St. S. W. telephone 404-656-2840
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 Elizabeth A. Lyon date 10/29/82
 title State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>John A. Burns</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>12/10/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

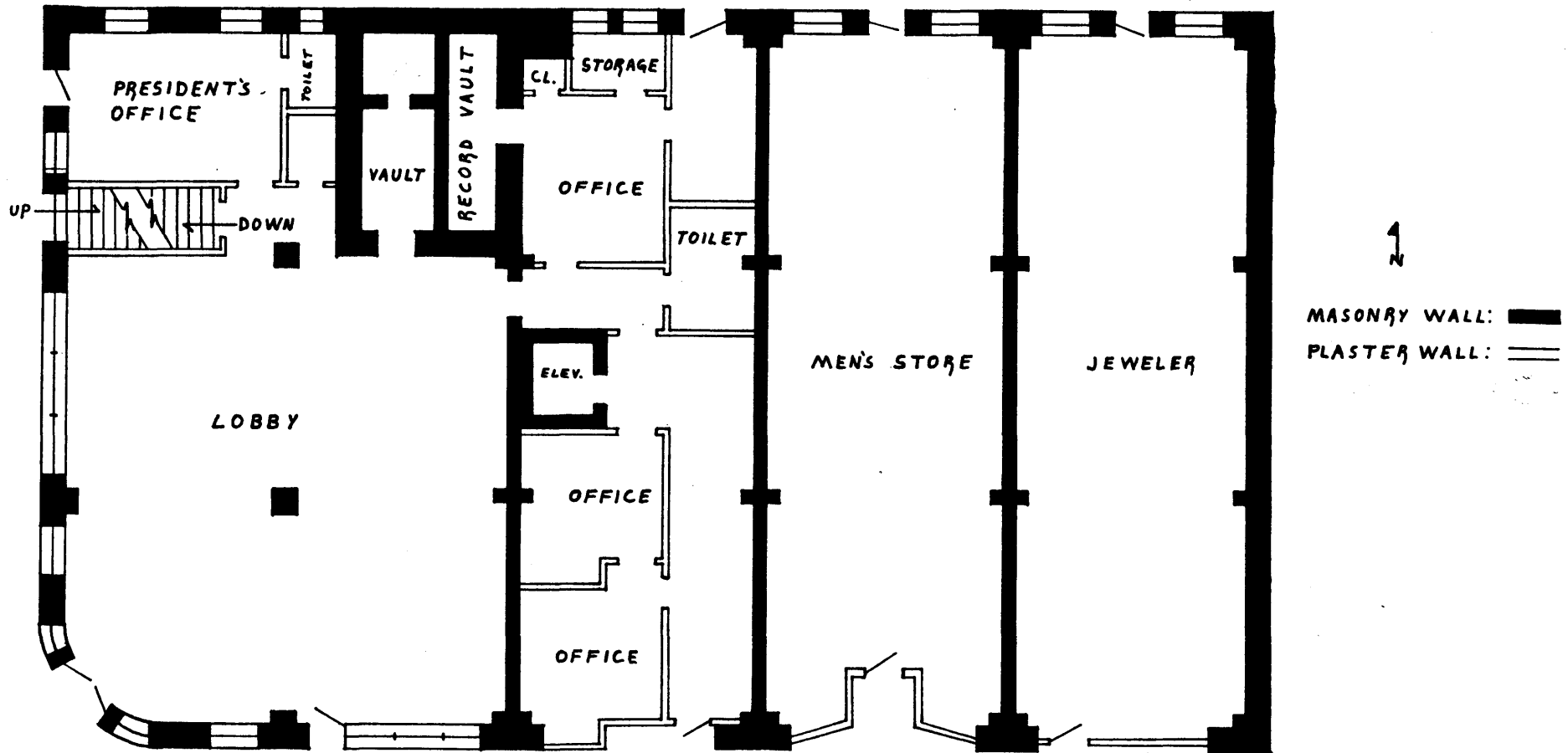
The architectural and commercial significance of the Union Banking Company Building supports its National Register eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C. The establishment of banking services, first at a time when the community was expanding from a village to a prosperous town and later in response to desperately needed banking services during the Depression, were important events in Douglas' commercial history. They support eligibility in terms of Criteria A. The building is a good representative example in Coffee County of the type of commercial style architecture which became popular in the early years of the twenetieth century. It is a transitional building, advanced in its early use of a reinforced concrete framework yet harking back to late Victorian styles in some of its exterior detailing. These features support its eligibility in terms of Criteria C.

UNION BANKING COMPANY BUILDING
Douglas, Coffee County, Georgia

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Scale: Not to scale

North: ↑



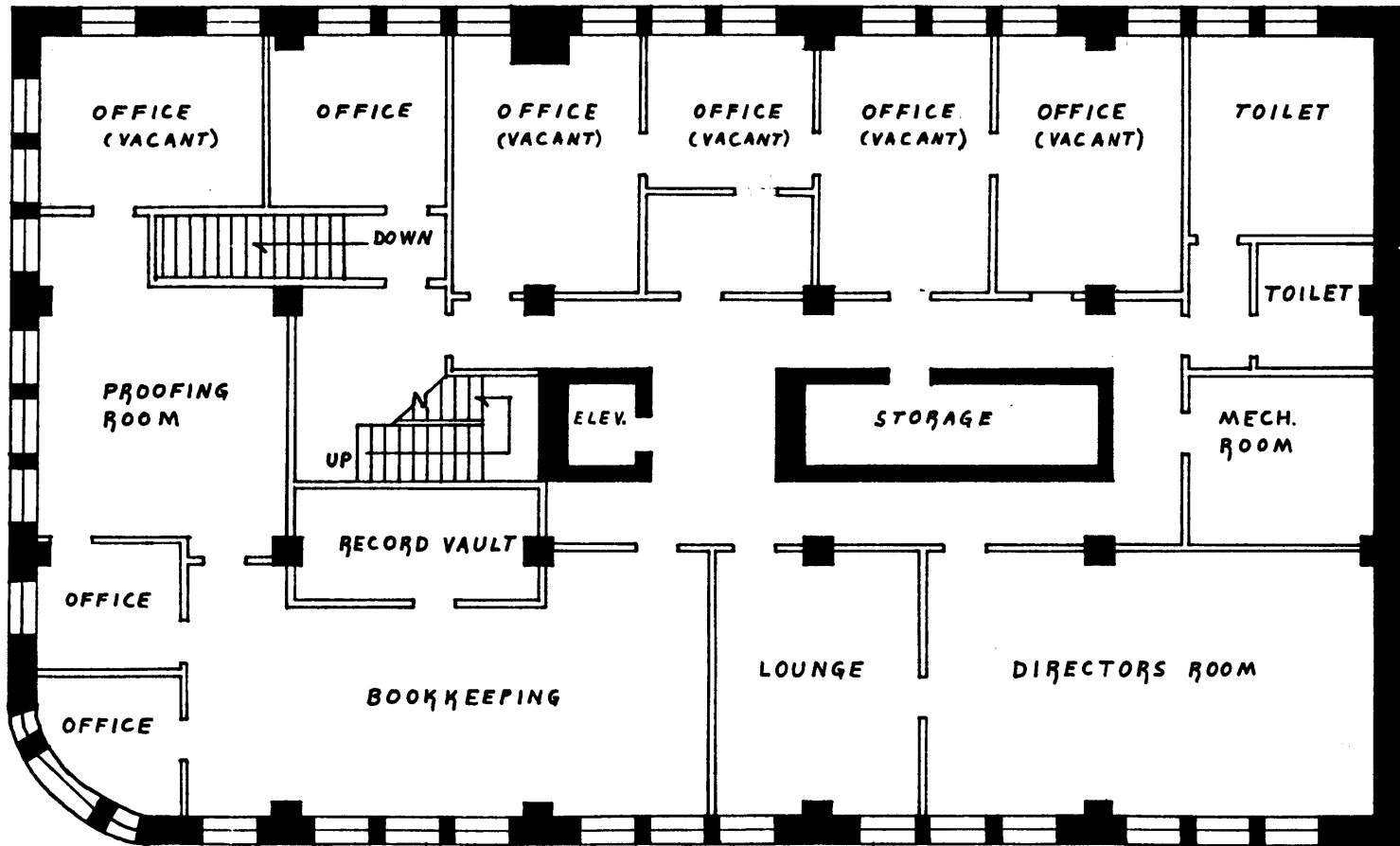
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
COFFEE COUNTY BANK
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

UNION BANKING COMPANY BUILDING
Douglas, Coffee County, Georgia

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Scale: Not to scale

North: ↑

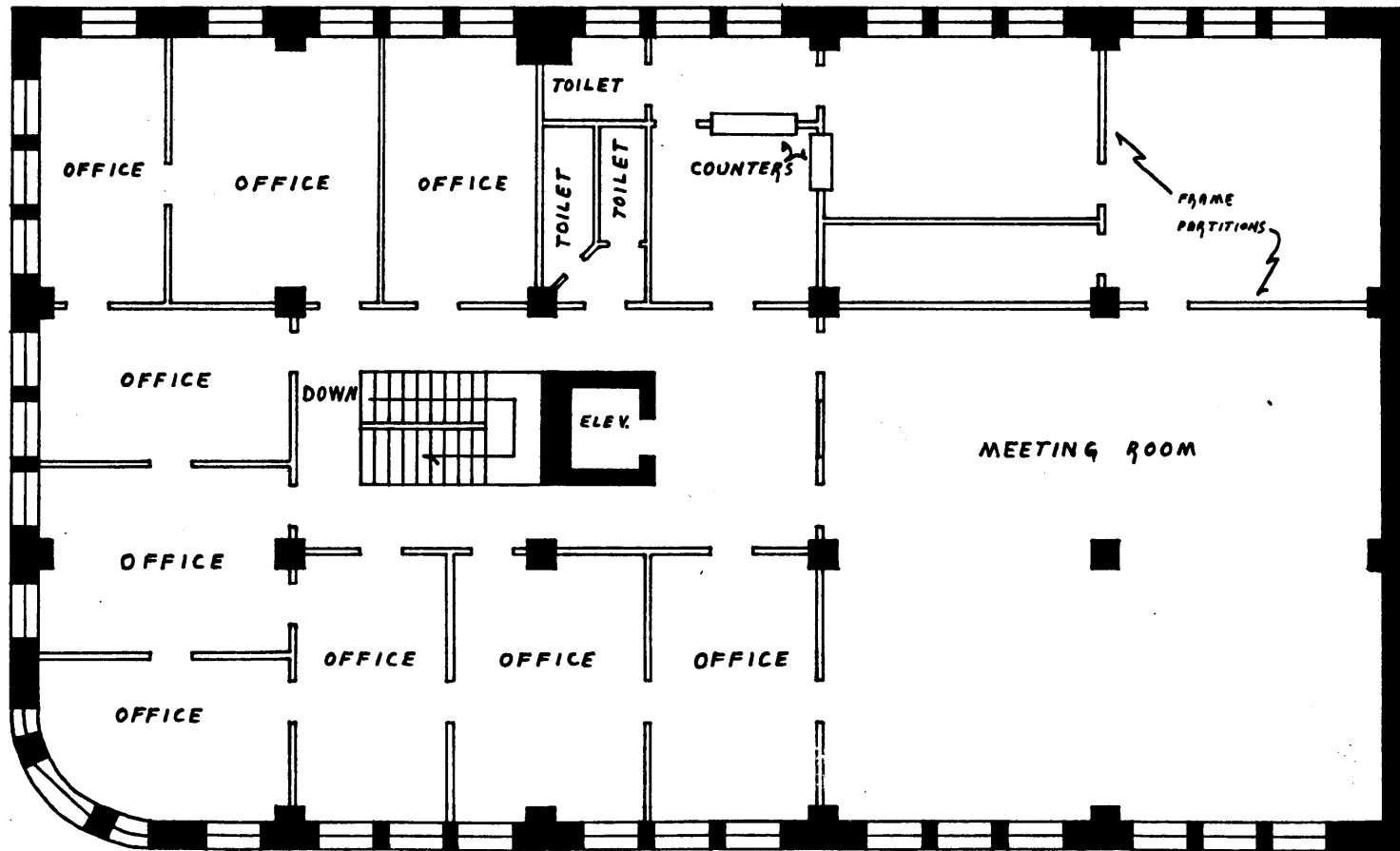


SECOND FLOOR PLAN
COFFEE COUNTY BANK
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

UNION BANKING COMPANY BUILDING
Douglas, Coffee County, Georgia

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

Scale: Not to scale
North: ↑



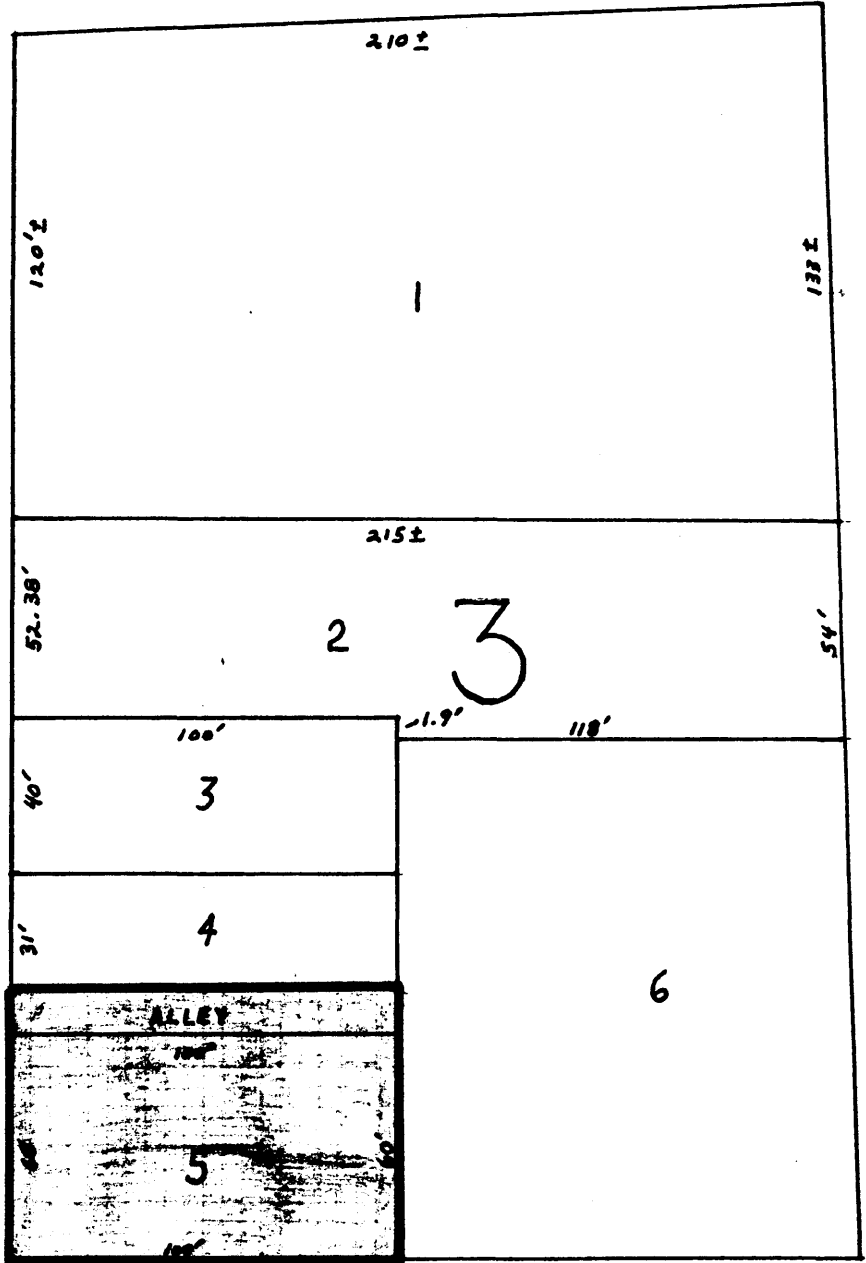
↑
N
MASONRY WALL: **█**
PLASTER WALL: **==**

THIRD FLOOR PLAN
COFFEE COUNTY BANK
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

SELLERS STREET

PETERSON AVENUE (U.S. HWY 441)

MADISON AVENUE



WARD STREET (U.S. HWY 221)

COFFEE
COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

UNION BANKING COMPANY BUILDING
Douglas, Coffee County, Georgia

PLAT MAP

Source: Tax Map D-1

Scale: 1" = 50'

North: ↑

Property Boundary: —————