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Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)	UNITED ST	ATES DEPARTMENT O NATIONAL PARK SEF	ļs	Georgia					
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First National Bank (Broadway Branch) of Columbus, an Italian Renaissance style cast iron building, was erected shortly after 1860 by William H. Young and is the largest cast iron building in the state.

This three story structure's design, two facades of which are cast iron, is based on a repeated round arch window unit detailed with an acanthus leaf key block in the center and a fluted Corinthian engaged column on each side. The size of this arched window unit decreases in width on each higher floor. Each floor's entablature varies also: the first floor with a dentil-design; the second with a series of panelled blocks, and the third with a bracketed composition. The asymmetrical main entrance, placed near the end of the 138 foot 6 inch north side of the building consists of a broken segmental arch that is supported by two fluted Corinthian columns. The door frame features an elaborate round arch with a lunette on either side of the door that is supported by small Corinthian columns. The west facade, 50 feet 2 inches long, features the identical design. These two facades described are the only cast iron ones, the inner and rear walls being constructed of brick.

There have been very few basic changes in the exterior of the bank since its construction 114 years ago. The windows on the upper stories were changed from two half arches that met in the center of the window with a circle at the joint of the two arches to plain louvered windows after the fire of 1957.

Because this fire completely gutted the interior of the bank leaving only the cast iron shell standing, the interior has been completely remodeled for use by the First National Bank of Columbus.



EINSTRUCTION

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ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1860)	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropria	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political ,	🔲 Urban Planning
Prehistoric	📋 Engineering	Religion/Phi-	X Other (Specify)
📋 Historic	industry	losophy	History
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
X Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
🔀 Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military •	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

The First National Bank (Broadway Branch) of Columbus, built for the Bank of Columbus by William H. Young, is the largest cast iron building in the state. This cast iron structure, a product of the advancing nineteenth century technological development, was built c.1860, a date which is especially important as it signifies the presence of sophistication equal to that of the New York cast iron architecture of Daniel Badger and James -Bogardus of almost the same time period.

The idea of supporting galleries or stairs in a building with iron beams had been popular in Europe as early as the late eighteenth century. However, the methods for casting enough iron to make the construction of a building like the First National Bank of Columbus possible were not developed until the nineteenth century. The Crystal Palace, built in 1851 by Sir Joseph Paxton for the Great Exhibition of 1851, was the first of these large cast iron buildings in Europe. In its design and construction the basic principle of the modular pre-fabricated unit composed of standard parts was set.

In America the use of cast iron in buildings was not extensive until the 1840's when Ammi B. Young used it in the Custom' Houses that he designed for the U.S. Government. By 1860, when this cast iron building for the Bank of Columbus was built, the American contribution to cast iron architecture of combining the cast iron front with the cast iron cage had reached its peak. From New York and Pittsburgh, where this building was supposedly cast, among other cities these buildings were shipped all over the country in sections. The First National Bank building is designed in the more -conservative Venetian Palazzo style of the Haughwout Building on Broadway and Broome Street in lower Manhattan, cast in 1857 by (Daniel Badger)who was one of the many foundry operators in mid-nineteenth century New York, rather than the simpler style of the Edgar Laing Stores on Washington and Murray Streets in lower Manhattan, cast in 1849 by James Bogardus who was one of Badger's chief rivals.

This cast iron building was built for the Bank of Columbus at a cost of \$50,000. The Bank began acquiring the land along Broadway that the building stands on as early as 1856, owning the whole block by 1860. The Bank of Columbus operated in this building between 1860 and 1866, when it appears to have declared bankruptcy. The building was bought at auction in 1869 for \$28,000 by the Georgia Home Insurance Company which appears to have operated an insurance company and a bank in the building through the 1870's. Since (continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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- "Columbus and Montgomery," <u>The Columbus Enquirer</u>, September 25, 1860, page 3, column 1.
- Historic Savannah. Savannah, Ga.: Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. 1970.

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Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

then it has been used by a number of banks. The building is still used as a bank, now owned by the First National Bank of Columbus which acquired it through a series of mergers and purchases.

As with many other towns, neighborhood shopping centers have reduced the economy of Columbus' downtown district. There have been many plans proposed to give a new sense of vitality to this area. The latest plan to revitialize downtown Columbus suggests that this building be torn down and replaced with a modern civic center. The historic First National Bank building desperately needs the prestige and protection that being on the National Register of Historic Places will afford it. According to a recently passed zoning law, any building accepted by the National Register will be given "Landmark" status locally which means that all alterations, improvements, partial demolitions, etc., will be subject to review by the local Board of Historic and Architectural Review.

- 9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)
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