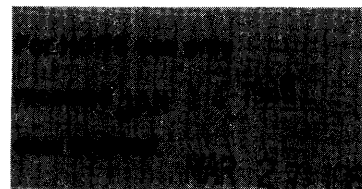


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 _____

and/or common Bank Street Historic District

2. Location

street & number 406-824 Bank (even) 305-725 Bank (odd) _____ not for publication

city, town Decatur _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5

state Alabama code 01 county Morgan code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 see continuation sheets

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morgan County Courthouse

street & number Lee at Ferry Street

city, town Decatur state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The district contains 40 structures, dating from the 1870s to the mid-20th century, which front onto six blocks of Bank Street. With the exception of two blocks on the north, which were leveled, and one block on the south, which contains modern structures, all of Bank Street is included in the district. The majority of the buildings are one or two stories; however, one structure (the Mutual Savings Life Building, number 27) rises to a height of six stories. Brick is the dominant material and several of the buildings have pressed metal decoration. Of the 40 structures in the district, 29 are considered to be contributing elements. Only one structure, a mid-century gas station, is considered to be intrusive. Structural conditions range from excellent to deteriorated, with several renovations being proposed if National Register status is achieved.

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 checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bank Street District contains a concentrated collection of late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings that reflect the historical importance of Decatur as a principal commercial center for the Tennessee Valley. In the late 19th century, in addition to being the business district of this slowly growing river town, it was the only point in the valley where rail, wagon and barge transportation converged. Most of the district structures reflect the modest wealth of the town's businessmen in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with many of the buildings showing native craftsmanship in brick and pressed metal fabricated in Decatur. Several of the buildings were designed by their builder-tenants and the remainder by local builders. Most of the pressed metal was locally fabricated by the Decatur Cornice and Roofing Company.

Architecturally the district contains representative examples of commercial buildings in the smaller southern towns during the late 19th and early 20th century. These structures reflect the local interpretations of national styles - Italianate, Victorian, and Commercial. The majority of the buildings in the district were constructed during a building program after a fire in 1877 destroyed most of the structures on the street. Approximately the same number of structures as are included in the district were razed in 1969 as part of an urban renewal project between the northern end of the district and the Tennessee River. District boundaries were drawn to include all of Bank Street except the northern blocks which are vacant and one southern block which contains new construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jenkins, William. The Story of Decatur. Decatur Printing Co.: Decatur, 1967.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 14 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Decatur 7.5

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

116	501	41610	318	219	91810
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B

116	501	51010	318	219	91310
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C

116	501	51810	318	219	11810
-----	-----	-------	-----	-----	-------

D

116	501	11010	318	219	51810
-----	-----	-------	-----	-----	-------

E

116	501	0510	318	219	61210
-----	-----	------	-----	-----	-------

F

116	501	31610	318	219	91410
-----	-----	-------	-----	-----	-------

G

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins/ Lee Sentell (Morgan County Historic Preservation Society)

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date January 7, 1980

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone (205) 832-6621

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama 36130

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Miss B. Howard

title SHPO - Alabama

date January 7, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce
for Keeper of the National Register

date 3/27/80

Attest: W. A. Duke
Chief of Registration

date 3/29/80

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

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MAR 27 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE BANK STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

R. N. Harris
600 Ferry Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama 35601

J.D. Collins
213 Cain Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

John Jones Estate
c/o Mrs. Walter Hall
1610 Stratford Road
Decatur, Alabama

John D. Wyker
711 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Decatur City Schools
302 4th Avenue, S.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Clete Quick
718 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

J. D. Reed
1020 Sherman Street, S.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Robert Hutson
923 8th Avenue, S.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Mrs. Dorothy Finley Brookling
c/o Grady Young
422 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Mutual Saving Life Insurance
c/o J. D. McPherson
P. O. Drawer 2222
Decatur, Alabama

Charles McLemore
308 Cain Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Bob Neill
816 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

R.W. Orr
2030 Market Street, S.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Fred Inglis
814 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Central Bank of Alabama
251 Johnston Street, S.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Bob Neill
address above

Jonathan Orr
423 Walnut Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Tommy Goode
818 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Ned Anderson
824 Bank Street
Decatur, Alabama

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Brock and Spight Co., Inc.
305 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Mrs. Juanita Aday
U.S. 31 North
Decatur, Alabama

W. H. Temple
317 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Buck Martin
723 Bank Street
Decatur, Alabama

Dorothy Finley Brookling
address already given

John D. Wyker
address already given

Salvation Army
810 6th Avenue, S.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Dr. G. H. Nungester
1607 Stratford Road, S.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Phil Irwin
413 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Mrs. Paul Wolfer
425 Vine Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

Carl McCaughren
409 8th Avenue, N.W.
Decatur, Alabama

John D. Wyker
address given above

Rising Sun Masonic Lodge #29
501 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

R. N. Harris
address already given

Preston Baggett
509 Bank Street
Decatur, Alabama

Jonathan Orr
address already given

Yancy Hughes
1502 Fairway Drive, S.E.
Decatur, Alabama

ZIP CODE FOR DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601

Harold Vandriver
609 Bank Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

W. W. Mock
515 Canal Street, N.E.
Decatur, Alabama

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STRUCTURES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF BANK STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT:

1. Owl Drug Store (824 Bank): pre-1888; two story, brick, original display window treatment on ground floor, 1/1 windows on second story incorporate pressed tin trim, second story includes central skylight plus northside photographer's skylight (now Dancy-Polk House Antiques).
2. Bank Street Furniture (818-822 Bank): c. 1900; two story, brick, modern display windows on ground floor, paired 1/1 windows in recessed planes on second floor; addition on north in 1910 reflects similar treatment to number 1.
3. Sam Frank and Moore Building (816 Bank): 1911; two story, brick, display windows with recessed entrance on ground floor, name in tile at entrance, flat metal awnings supported by chains from building, four upper floor windows with pressed metal trim, brick corbels and pressed metal cornice.
4. Merchants Bank (814 Bank): 1910; two story brick structure, limestone facade on ground floor with narrow recessed windows flanking recessed, double front door entrance; four narrow (1/1) windows on second story, good example of corbeling, panel design in brick, parapet; interior contains two-story lobby with original oval balcony over banking area, marble floors, large skylight, original vault intact; restored 1978 (now English House of Bank Street).
5. Lyons Building (804-806-810 Bank): 1903; two story, yellow brick, display windows on street level for three of four bays are intact, arched and flat headed windows alternate on second floor, stepped and curved parapets are capped with molded stone, quions at corners; currently under renovation (now Old Towne Shoppe, Crump Camera Shop, and Straub Law Office).
6. Alabama Drug Store (802 Bank): 1887; Italianate; two-story corner store, ground floor restorable, windows, metal cornice and stepped parapet are intact on second floor (recently rehabilitated as law offices of Gilmer Blackburn).
8. Frame Shop (720 Bank): 1903; one story brick, display area is altered and shingled awning has been added, but simple corbeled cornice is intact.

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10. Morris Cafe (716 Bank): c. 1910; two story, stuccoed brick, windows above covered but still intact, ground floor angled slightly to form sheltered entrance (now Old Decatur Restaurant).
13. Frazier Building (702-704 Bank): 1907; two story brick, ground floor altered, upper floor has round arched 1/1 windows, parapet with decorative brick work and date panel.
14. Tennessee Valley Bank (624 Bank): 1927; three story, classically-inspired bank building is relatively unaltered; erected as headquarters for what became State National Bank and now Central Bank of Alabama (now Bank Street branch and Master Charge office of Central Bank of Alabama).
16. Clopton's Ice Creamery and Dairy (518 Bank): c. 1900; two story rectangular building, pressed tin crest and flagpole dominate roof, Chicago-made cast iron pilasters flank front entrance of recent glass-brick windows; erected for Clopton's Creamery and used in dairy operations continuously until 1978; 1940's addition at rear contains outline of dairy bottle in marble over door.
18. Gordon's Cleaners (502-506 Bank): c. 1895; two story brick, ground floor display windows altered, upper floor large round-arched windows are covered from inside, brick pilasters and decorative entablature are intact.
19. Old Post Office (408 Bank): c. 1925; Georgian Revival; two story with full basement, tan brick, wooden fans above central door and flanking windows, severe entablature, low pediment with sections of balustrade; elaborate paneling inside original lobby, brass details on exterior and interior, loading dock at rear (since 1964 Instructional Services Center for Decatur City Schools).
20. WHOS Radio Station (406 Bank): c. 1920; two-story, stuccoed brick building, with second-story windows filled, painted white, restoration being considered.
21. City Barber Shop (725 Bank): c. 1894; two story, brick, intact ground floor, three linteled windows on second story, nice brickwork, one of most intact buildings in district.
22. Security Mutual Building (723 Bank): late 19th century; two story, brick, common bond, altered ground floor, shuttered square head windows with lintels, metal cornice, new shingled hood awning (now Martin-Phillips Insurance Agency).

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24. Jones Cotton Building (709 Bank): 1904; two story, brick crest in stone with owner's name and date, brackets supporting ledge, acanthus leaves, dentils below, segmented arch windows with keystone, common bond brick, altered ground floor and new cedar shingle awning (now Bank Street Finance).
25. Nungester Drugs (707 Bank): 1874; two story, painted brick, corbeled trim, three recessed bays, ornate lintels, altered ground floor and new cedar shingle awning.
26. Western Union (705 Bank): c. 1902; two story, painted brick, corbeled trim over second story sash windows; altered ground floor, cedar shingle awning.
28. Bank Street Hospital (619 Bank): 1929; two story, stucco, tile roof, half pilasters, metal awnings on four second story windows.
29. North Alabama Printing Company (609 Bank): early 20th century; one story, dark red brick, recessed panels on entablature, stepped parapet with stone cap; altered ground floor.
30. Hughes Building (607-605-603-601 Bank): 1927; one story building with four shops, plain quoins, sandstone keystones; new cedar shingle awning (now Sand Mountain Flower, Bank Street Potter, Murphy's Antiques, Norman Dance Studio).
32. Sun Drop Bottling Plant (509 Bank): 1919; one story painted brick, parapet gable dominates front, front recessed deep enough to shelter drink trucks, corbel table follows pitch of gable; pressed tin ceiling (now Decatur Glass and Paint Company office).
33. Baggett Warehouse (505 Bank): 1905; one story, brick, six bays, three arched recessed double windows on front; on side street, single arched windows.
34. Buffalo Rock Plant (425 Bank): 1923; two story, painted brick, ground floor recessed for drink trucks, two arched windows on ground floor, recessed panels and segmental arched windows on top floor, graduated stepdown roofline on side street (formerly VIPCO Plant, now vacant).
35. Finley Warehouse (423 Bank): 1931; one story, brick, plate glass windows flank center garage door, recessed panels in parapet with corbeling.

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36. McCaughren Appliance (415 Bank): 1920; one story, brick with plate glass display window.
37. Irwin Contractors (413 Bank): 1920; one story, brick, plate glass display windows.
40. Brock and Spight Wholesale Grocery (305 Bank): 1898; five-sided, three-story, red brick warehouse, nine pilasters with arched windows, eight sections enclosing two windows each floor, ground floor has eight windows over four display windows, enclosed foundation; building and tenant unchanged since 1898.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

7. Scott Block (724 Bank): 1888; three story, brick with remodeled ground floor, altered windows on upper two floors (now Decatur office of State Unemployment Compensation Department).
9. Roxy Theatre (718 Bank): c. 1925, remodeled 1960; two and one-half stories, Mansard roof, three shed dormers, front door flanked by oreil windows, shingled hood (now WMSL radio offices).
11. Wyker Shops (710-712-714 Bank): c. 1910; remodeled one-story commercial stores with modern display windows and shingled hood.
12. Joe's Coffee Cup (708 Bank): c. 1945; one-story building, originally an alley that was enclosed and roofed for a coffee shop, pressed tin ceiling, small display window, top of building hidden by shingle awning that extends over it.
17. Hardwick Company (506 Bank): 1935; one story brick with metal awning over plate glass display window.
23. Wyker's Hardware (711 Bank): 1905; two story, brick, plate glass windows on ground floor are new, round-arched windows have been squared, cornice removed.
27. Mutual Savings Life Building (701 Bank): 1915, 1951; six story tan brick, marble corners and glass brick on sides in bands at each floor level, originally was three story brick.

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31. Masonic Hall (501 Bank): 1975; one story, brick, cedar shingle hood on side and front of structure, cornice boxed and decorated, square wooden columns supporting hood.
38. Cedar Shop (409 Bank): 1945; one story, yellow brick, glass and aluminum window, large painted sign over front.
39. Temple Electric (317 Bank): 1974; one story, brick, cedar shingle awning, building set back to allow parking space.

INTRUSIVE STRUCTURE:

15. Standard Oil Station (602 Bank): 1968; one-story, with free-standing pumps covering corner lot.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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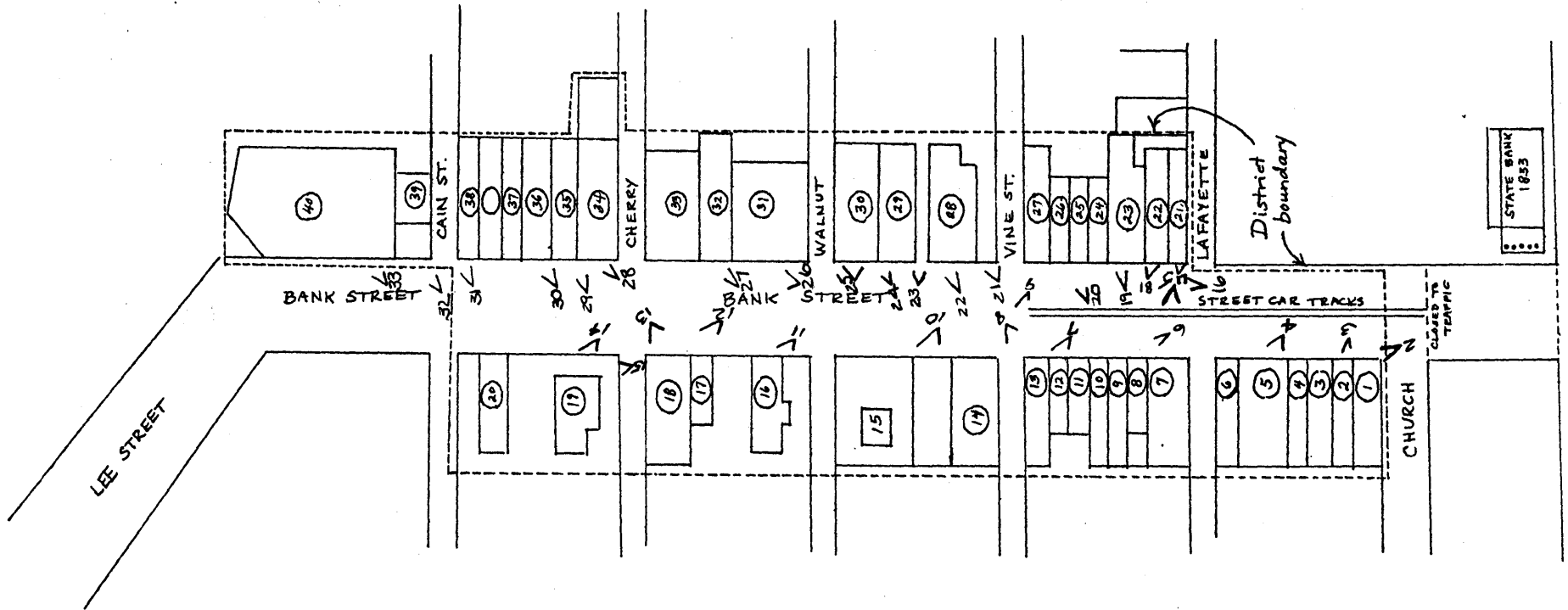
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION FOR BANK STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Beginning at a point at the intersection of Bank and LaFayette streets at the southwest corner, along a line in a northwesterly direction on LaFayette for 125 feet, thence southwesterly in a line parallel to Bank Street, past Vine, Walnut and Cherry streets, thence northwesterly for 20 feet, thence southwesterly for 40 feet, thence southeasterly for 20 feet, thence southwesterly to a point parallel with Bank as it becomes Lee Street, thence along a line 125 feet to a point where Lee merges to become Bank Street, and following a line along Bank to the intersection of Cain Street on the northwest corner, thence southeasterly along Cain to a point 125 feet from the property line (12 feet from the curb), thence in a northeasterly direction along an alley past Cherry, Walnut and Vine streets, thence southeasterly along Vine for 15 feet, thence northeasterly for 30 feet, thence northwesterly for 15 feet, thence along an alley to a point past LaFayette Street to Church Street, thence 125 feet to the property line at the northwest corner of Bank and Church, thence continuing across Bank Street to a point in line with the property line on the west side of Bank, thence southwesterly to the northwest corner of Bank and LaFayette streets.

1



BANK STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

