NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower
Other name/site number: Public Service Company; Bank One Center; Chase Tower, FBSW Tower
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 600 South Tyler Street
City or town: Amarillo State: Texas County: Potter
Not for publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (☑ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (☑ meets ☐ does not meet) the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
☐ national ☐ statewide ☑ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☑ A ☐ B ☑ C ☐ D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 1/29/19
Signature of certifying official / Title **Date**

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official **Date**

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

x	Private
	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property

x	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE: Business, Financial Institution

Current Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification: MID-CENTURY MODERN NONRESIDENTIAL: Skyscraper, New Formalism

Principal Exterior Materials: CONCRETE, GLASS

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-15)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Areas of Significance: Community Planning and Development, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1968-1971

Significant Dates: 1968

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Kelley Marshall & Associates (design architect), Arthur Vaughn (associate architect), Wilson Doche Architects (Amarillo Club architect), W.R.G. Co., Inc (contractor)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 16-25)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 26-27)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- _ previously listed in the National Register
- _ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _ designated a National Historic Landmark
- _ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- _ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
- **x** State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*, Austin)
- _ Other state agency
- _ Federal agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- _ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.1 Acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 35.207382° Longitude: -101.838861°

Verbal Boundary Description:
The property is situated on an approximately 2.1 acre site located at 600 South Tyler Street in Amarillo, Potter County, Texas. The property is bound by South Tyler Street to the east, Southwest 6th Avenue to the north, Southwest 7th Avenue to the south, and South Harrison Street to the west. The building occupies the eastern portion of the site, with a surface parking lot on the west. G & S-PLEMONS ADDNS, LOT BLOCK 0078, ENTIRE BLOCK PLUS, VACATED ALLEY.

Boundary Justification:
The boundary of the nominated property includes all the contributing resources that were built and used during the period of significance (1968-1971).

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: JulieAnn Murphy with assistance from Anna Mod
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Date: August 20, 2018

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 28-29)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 30-44)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 5-6, 45-62)

Photograph Log

American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower
600 South Tyler Street
Amarillo, Potter County, Texas
Photographed by JulieAnn Murphy, April 2018

Photo 1
East elevation
Camera facing southwest

Photo 2
East elevation
Camera facing west

Photo 3
South elevation
Camera facing north

Photo 4
North elevation
Camera facing south

Photo 5
West (right) and north (left) elevations
Camera facing southeast

Photo 6
West elevation
Camera facing east

Photo 7
Ground floor arcade
Camera facing west

Photo 8
Marble tile detail at ground floor
Camera facing southeast

Photo 9
Parking attendant station
Camera facing south

Photo 10
Ground floor elevator lobby
Camera facing west

Photo 11
Ground floor bank
Camera facing south

Photo 12
Bank basement vault
Camera facing west

Photo 13
Thirteenth floor door detail, typical
Camera facing south

Photo 14
Fifteenth floor cooridor
Camera facing north

Photo 15
Nineteeth floor elevator lobby with sheared white stone wall detail
Camera facing east

Photo 16
Nineteenth floor mail chute
Camera facing east

Photo 17
Amarillo Club thirtieth floor spiral stair
Camera facing east

Photo 18
Amarillo Club dining room, thirty-first floor
Camera facing south

Narrative Description

American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower is located at 600 South Tyler Street in downtown Amarillo, Texas and is comprised of a main building and a small parking attendant booth **(Map 1)**.[1] Constructed between 1968 and 1971, the New Formalist style skyscraper is 31-stories plus basement, with a distinct tower-on-podium composition comprised of a base containing the building's first six stories topped with a setback 25-story tower. The basement and first floor contain public lobby and retail space and important mechanical and service rooms. Podium floors two through six serve as a parking garage. Floors seven through twenty-nine are tenant office space and floors thirty and thirty-one house the Amarillo Club, a members-only club and restaurant. The building is bound by Southwest 6th Avenue to the north, South Tyler Street to the east, Southwest 7th Avenue to the south, and South Harrison Street to the west **(Map 2).** The building's primary (east) elevation fronts South Tyler Street, with the base portion spanning the width of South Tyler from Southwest 6th Avenue to Southwest 7th Avenue. The area west of the building to Harrison Street is a surface parking lot with a small parking attendant booth. The American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower is largely intact, appears much as it did when constructed, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Setting

American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower is in downtown Amarillo; its setting is urban with perimeter sidewalks and adjacent commercial buildings. The building occupies a half block and is one block west of Polk Street, Amarillo's historic main street **(Map 2)**. The building's vicinity includes both early twentieth century and mid-twentieth century buildings. Buildings on the west side of the site are generally one-story commercial and light industrial buildings, several of which were associated with automobile use. The buildings to the east and the south of the site vary in height from one to sixteen stories and are mostly commercial, with several relating to the banking industry in the immediate vicinity of the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower. The northern edge of the site is bordered by a series of one-story vernacular commercial buildings dating from the 1920s. Directly to the east is a surface parking lot. On the northeast corner of Tyler Street there is a three-story one-part commercial building. Built for American National Bank of Amarillo in 1952, it served as their headquarters and featured the then new innovation of drive-in teller windows at its north end. American National used it until their tower building was completed in 1971. The southeast corner of Tyler includes a one-story modernist commercial building that was a Panhandle Savings and Loan (1949) branch location. The former First National Bank (1950) building, an 11-story brick and limestone modernist building occupies the northeast corner of Tyler Street and Eight Avenue. The area immediately south of the site is a one-story modernist brick and glass Greyhound bus depot. It was built as a Trailways station in 1949 and Greyhound has used the building since moving from a previous location at Taylor Street and Ninth Avenue in 1987. The area to the west of the building has a surface parking lot and a one-story former auto garage and showroom with Art Deco details.

Exterior

American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower is a 31-story plus basement concrete frame, flat roof building with a six-story base and a 25-story tower. This skyscraper was designed with reinforced concrete construction technology and was constructed one story at a time. Each floor was framed by carpenters, then poured and cured before the process was repeated on the floor above. Major structural support was created through six large piers twelve feet in diameter and flaring twenty-four feet and continuing down for eighty-five feet **(Figure 3)**.

[1] At the time of construction, the building was referred to as the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower. This nomination will continue to use its historic name throughout for consistency and ease of description, though the building has been called by several names during its history. In the summer of 2018, the building was renamed again as the FBSW Tower.

The six-story base includes the first floor retail space and main lobby and is clad in white split rib concrete masonry units (CMU) with regularly spaced vertical louvers except for the south, north, and east ground floor retail elevations that have floor-to-ceiling window walls protected by a continuous, arched, marble-clad arcade. The next five stories, clad in CMU, conceal the interior parking garage.

The five-bay south and ten-bay east tower elevations are defined by a flattened New Formalist colonnade executed in a solar gray glass curtain walls with alternating enamel spandrel panels set between the ribbed CMU-clad structural columns and crowned by an arched top floor or cornice.

The widest ten-bay tower elevation faces east onto South Tyler Street **(Photos 1 and 2)**. It is set back one bay from the building's northern edge (Southwest 6th) and set back three and one-half bays from the south, Southwest 7th Avenue, elevation. The north tower elevation has a small rectangular appendage where the elevator core and restrooms are located and only the two outermost bays have the curtain wall glass, spandrel panels, and arched cornice. The west elevation is a mirror image of the east with the added elevator and stair jutting out from the building plane and clad with the ribbed CMU in bays six and seven. The tower portion of the building is tenant office space. Marble clad arches define the ground floor bays on the primary (east) and two secondary (north and south) elevations. This arch detail is repeated on the top two floors, which house the Amarillo Club, a members-only social club and restaurant.

East Elevation
The building's primary (east) elevation fronts South Tyler Street and encompasses the entire block from Southwest 6th Avenue to Southwest 7th Avenue and features nine concrete arched storefront bays. Arches on the base of the primary elevation are clad in honed white marble tiles **(Photos 7 and 8)**. The seven central arched bays feature bronze-color aluminum frame storefront systems with solar gray tinted glass with a split rib concrete base. The northern- and southernmost bays extend beyond the ground-floor footprint of the building, creating an arcade, with the southernmost featuring partial aluminum storefront glazing and the easternmost partially obscured by a portion of the northeast exterior wall of the ground floor. A flat awning with a short parapet with a wide copper fascia covers the three central arched bays. The building's main entry, a set of aluminum paired doors and an adjacent automatic sliding door, is located in the central bay under the awning. The copper fascia on the awning continues above the soffit of the ground floor level. The base portion continues above the fascia for five stories. The east elevation is ten bays of white split rib concrete CMU cladding separated by alternating thin, vertical aluminum louvers. The roofline of the base creates a short parapet.

The tower's primary elevation is an aluminum framed glass and spandrel curtain wall of solar gray windows with alternating black porcelain enamel spandrel panels. Vertical mullions are in the same bronze color seen on the storefront system below, while horizontal mullions are black to match the enamel spandrel panels. The curtain wall is divided in groups of three and punctuated by precast concrete columns faced with white decorative aggregate rock continuing to the top where the ground floor arch design is echoed. These arches form the terminus, or cornice, of the building and are flush with the floors below. The top two floorplans of the north and south tower elevations are recessed from the arches, mimicking this same detail of the ground floor.

South Elevation
The building's five bay north and south elevations are the shorter end wall sides of the base and tower **(Photo 3)**. The ground floor arches continue from the primary elevation to the south elevation only with an inset floorplan creating the arcade or covered walkway. Like the primary elevation, the faces of the arches are clad in honed white marble. The arcade ceiling is concrete and has three rows of regularly spaced round recessed lights. The south elevation's ground floor has bronze-color aluminum frame storefront systems with solar gray tinted glass and split rib concrete base. The southwest corner has a rotating door flanked by two fully glazed pull-entry doors. There is a small projection clad in split rib CMU to the west of the south entry extending from the building's west elevation. As on the primary elevation,

the ground floor is capped with a bronze band or fascia. The building's base continues above and is comprised of five bays of split rib CMU cladding separated by four vertical aluminum louvers for five stories.

The tower portion is set back approximately three and one-half bays from the south elevation's base. The tower's south elevation is comprised of five bays of curtain glass with alternating black enamel spandrel panels and separated by precast concrete columns. The columns continue to the top two floors and define the five arched openings. The top two floor plans are inset allowing the arches to form a sunshield. The precast concrete panels faced with white aggregate continues from the top of the arched openings to the roofline. The southern face of the elevator shaft on the building's west side is visible from this elevation, is devoid of any openings, clad in split rib CMU, and aligns with the tower's roofline.

North Elevation
The north elevation largely mirrors the building's south elevation **(Photo 4)**. The ground floor has four arched openings clad and an arcade with recessed lights. Aluminum storefront glazing with a split rib CMU base occupies most of the ground floor. The center of the storefront glazing includes a set of paired entry doors to a projecting glazed vestibule with a second set of paired doors to the ground floor. The westernmost arched opening is vehicular access out of the parking garage portion in the base portion of the building. Vehicular access in to the parking garage is immediately to the west.

The same copper fascia above the ground floor level separates it from the rest of building's base above. Similar to the south elevation, the north elevation base is five bays of white split rib CMU separated by four thin vertical aluminum louvers. Unlike the west and south elevations, the tower portion features a central projecting bay clad in white split rib CMU. This is the elevator, stair, and restroom core of the tower. The projecting bay rises above the roofline on either side. A single width of glazing and alternating spandrel panels is immediately east of the projecting bay is surrounded with white split rib CMU with an arched detail at the top. The northwest corner features a single arched opening at the top two floors and rises slightly above the roofline to its west. The area below the northwest arch is a width of three bays of curtain wall with alternating enamel spandrel panels. A second arch is on the east side of the projecting bay at the building's northwest corner and mirrors the configuration of the northeast corner.

West Elevation
The west elevation faces the adjacent surface parking lot **(Photo 5 and 6)**. The ground floor level is clad in white split rib CMU separated by white concrete columns at regular intervals. The ground floor is devoid of any openings save for a projecting bay with an automatic sliding door flanked by a single door on its north side that lead to the lobby. A metal door to the east of the lobby entry serves as egress from the enclosed stair for the parking garage. The base portion is set back from base portion of the north and south elevations. Like other elevations, the base portion is clad in white split rib CMU, but has regular intervals of open vertical ventilation slots instead of aluminum louvers. The ground floor's projecting bay continues to the top of the base section and includes narrow punched window openings at each level and mechanical equipment on its roof. There is a vertical ribbon opening at the top four stories of the base portion on the south side of the projecting bay, exposing the concrete structure of the enclosed garage.

The tower portion of the west elevation has a curtain wall with alternating enamel panels and seven arched openings at the top two floors. The tower portion includes a projecting elevator bay in the same location as the projecting bay on the base portion of the elevation that rises above the roofline. The elevator bay's north side slightly projects for the enclosed stair.

Interior

American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower is a 31-story plus basement building with a full basement, lobby, five-story parking garage, office floors, and a rooftop club. Floor plans are organized around an elevator bank, with common lobbies, stairs, and restrooms on each floor. A tower stair is north of the elevator bank and a secondary stair is on the building's north end and provides access from the lowest parking level to the 30th floor. A second elevator bank at the building's west side provides access from the parking garage levels to the first floor main lobby. A third elevator at the building's north provides access from the basement level to the first floor lobby bank. Given the building's use as an office with multiple tenants' interior spaces are divided into two main categories: public spaces, which include lobbies, restaurants, restrooms, and reception areas; and private spaces which include a series of upper-floor offices.

The basement and first floor contain public lobby and several retail spaces and important mechanical and service rooms. Floors two through six serve as a parking garage. Floors seven through twenty-nine serve as tenant office space and floors thirty and thirty-one house the Amarillo Club, a members-only club and restaurant.

Basement
The building's basement is below grade and accessed by the main elevator and the stair. The basement can also be accessed from the first floor banking lobby by and a second, single elevator cab on the south side of the main elevator. The basement's core section is occupied by the former tenant's bank vault, safety deposit box room, and banking teller area. The perimeter of the basement level features a double-loaded corridor lined with offices. Corridor floors are modern laminate and wall partitions are full gypsum board walls. Restrooms occupy the northwest corner. Original details include teller stations on the west side of the vault core that include glass teller windows with a polished natural stone faced desk, safety deposit boxes, and several walk-in vaults **(Photo 12)**. The building's basement, once a publicly accessible space, has been altered several times since the 1970s. Office space was added in 1977. The basement bank area was remodeled in 1986 with subsequent updates in both 2011 and 2012.

Lobby
The first floor lobby is accessed via entries on the building's primary (east), west, and north elevations. The center of the lobby has elevator banks on the north and south sides, each with four cabs to access the building upper-floor tower **(Figure 7)**. Cab doors are modern stainless steel and surrounded with floor to ceiling natural stone panels. The elevator lobby ceiling is dropped with square coffered sections and interior lighting and the floors are carpeted **(Photo 10)**. A second bank of elevators is on the lobby's west end, beyond a security desk to the north and restrooms to the south. The west elevators serve to access the parking garage located in the building's base portion. The west elevators have two cabs and feature the same natural stone wall panel surrounds as the main elevator lobby. The ceilings in the west side of the main lobby are dropped acoustic tile with recessed lighting and the flooring is tile. The north side of the lobby has aluminum frame storefront glass partitions for a café space to the west and a private office to the east. The building's lobby retains its historic circulation pattern and historic use. Finishes were updated over the years to accommodate changing office interior design trends. The natural stone elevator surrounds, ceiling treatments, and flooring are the result of renovations from the late 1990s and early 2000s.

First Floor Banking area
The first floor banking area is located in the southern portion of the lobby and separated by an angled aluminum frame storefront glass system with a central entry door. There is access to the banking area from the basement and exterior via the revolving door on the south elevation. This banking space is divided into public area and office space. The office space area includes perimeter private offices and an interior open floor plan. Offices feature metal framed glazed panels and solid metal doors. Ceilings in the office area are dropped acoustic tile and the floors are carpeted. The office area connects to the teller area. The teller area has a wood counter that runs north to south with punched openings for customer service. The ceilings are dropped acoustic tile with fluorescent tube lights and the floors are carpeted. The teller area

faces the customer area of the bank. The queue area in front of the teller desk has tile floors and is separated from the rest of the bank by a gypsum board partition wall with a large central opening **(Photo 11)**.

The public area is a full-height space with acoustic tile ceilings and is punctuated by two rows of three large painted concrete support columns. The northernmost columns are larger than those on the south. The south and east perimeter has wood frame partitions with glazed panels for private offices. The center of the front of house area has a round customer kiosk desk with a particleboard base and an enamel counter and face.

The bank space has been updated several times. It was first remodeled in 1976, the office area behind the teller window was updated in 1977, and the space received updated finishes and minor reconfigurations in 1986.[2] The office area on the bank's first floor level appears to retain much of its historic configuration and historic features like the office glazing and doors and a water fountain. The bank area, however, retains the general layout, but was updated with new teller desks, new office configurations, and finishes that likely date to the 1986 renovation.[3] The defining concrete columns are original.

Second through sixth floors
The second through sixth floors of the base serve as the interior parking garage and are accessed via the central elevator, west elevator, and west stair **(Figure 8)**. The parking levels' vehicular access is on the building's northwest corner. Concrete car ramps run north-south and continue up the top parking level at the sixth floor. Parking spots line the perimeter and core area of each floor. Square concrete support columns and ceiling support beams are exposed. Columns are painted a different color on each floor. The sixth floor's north side is partitioned from the parking area and houses service and mechanical equipment areas **(Figure 9)**. On each parking level, glass doors on the elevator's west side lead to the main elevator bank and provide access to the main lobby and floors above. Across the vehicular ramp, on the building's west side there is access to the west elevator via a short concrete stair. The west elevator provides access from the garage to the main lobby.

All cabs of the central elevator can access the lobby through the sixth floor. The elevator lobby surround at this floor is gypsum board. The floors are finished in a vinyl tile and have a rubber baseboard. The east portion of the sixth floor, beyond the central elevator is leasable space and contains a north-south corridor to the east of the main elevator. The east corridor wall is glazing with a gym beyond with exposed concrete columns, dropped acoustic tile ceiling, and a rubber floor. Other corridor partition walls are gypsum board, ceilings are dropped acoustic tiles, and the floors are the same vinyl tile continued from the elevator lobby. The west corridor wall features original and modern replacement bronze colored post office boxes. Doors to office space on the west corridor wall are 8'-6" metal doors with metal frame sidelights. The parking garage retains its general historic configuration and appearance. The leasable sixth floor space on floor's east side did not originally extend to the building's north end but was updated to include more leasable space where there used to be six additional parking spots.

Tower
The building's tower contains levels seven to thirty-one. The floors are similarly arranged around the elevator, restroom, and fire exist stairs. Historically, the lobbies featured painted board ceilings, continuous ceiling lighting fixtures parallel to the elevator walls, rusticated white quartz tile walls, carpeted floors, and wood veneered restroom doors (women's at the northeast corner; men's at the southwest corner) and two closet doors in the nook at the west of the elevator lobby. There is a continuous aluminum mail chute on all floors across from the women's restroom. The building historically had a mix of single and multi-tenant floors that continues to this day. The multi-tenant floors have a north-to-south corridor that runs from the elevator lobby to the north fire stairs; single tenant floors each have unique

[2] City of Amarillo, building permit
[3] Ibid.

floor plans. Tenant office doors range from full-height, aluminum framed openings with wood veneered doors to a mixture of later replacements, including wood and glass doors with sidelights and the most recently installed Herculite floor-to-ceiling window walls.

Seventh floor
The building's seventh floor is the first floor of the tower portion. It is accessible via the north stair and the four easternmost cabs of the central elevator. The elevator lobby walls are painted gypsum board with wood baseboards. The elevator lobby floors are modern replacement tile that extends to the west, where there is a women's restroom on at the northeast corner and a men's restroom on the southwest corner. A door to the west of the men's restroom leads to a janitor's closet and a door to the north of the women's restroom leads to the elevator stair, which extends from the seventh floor to the roof. The wall between the two restrooms has floor to ceiling mirrors, which are not original. Restroom, stair, and closet doors have a stained wood veneer and are historic and original to the building. Opposite the women's restroom, there is a historic mail chute. The elevator lobby is separated from the seventh floor office space on the east side by a modern paired wooden door with a modern wood frame decorative side light. A mechanical chase is on the east side of the northeast elevator cab.

The seventh floor was historically the building's executive level and the treatment of the glazing is floor-to-ceiling as seen on the ground floor storefronts. Corner offices have mitered glass corners for an unobstructed view of the city below. The original plans indicate that the space did not have any partitions and the interior configuration was not in the original scope of the project. As designed, the plans allowed for tenants to decide on finishes for the leasable space. However, the sixth floor roof, former rooftop terrace, is accessible at this level, making it a desirable location for executive offices. The floor plan is not original and has been updated several times for tenants' needs. The perimeter has gypsum board partition walls for offices. Portions of the interior of the floor plan are open and used for flexible meeting space and sitting areas. The ceilings are dropped acoustic tile and the floors are carpeted. The former sliding glass doors to access the rooftop terrace have been replaced with full-height glass.

Seventh floor roof terrace
The sixth floor roof has vinyl membrane roofing. Two large mechanical cooling systems are on the west side of the roof and shielded on the north by a CMU wall. An enclosed stair with white split rib CMU exterior walls is on the south side of the cooling system. The perimeter of the roof has a short, flat parapet with white split rib CMU on the interior. The roofline is capped with honed white stone and has enamel panels aligned with the vertical aluminum louvers on the face of the base below. The seventh story floor plan is slightly smaller than the tower floors above and the exterior and the precast concrete faced columns that punctuate the curtain wall terminate at the sixth floor roof.

Eighth through twenty-ninth floors
The eighth through twenty-ninth floors follow the same general floor plan. Each floor has a core elevator lobby, with a men's and women's restroom on the west side, a janitor's closet, elevator stair access at the northwest corner, and a historic mail chute on the west wall of the north side of the elevator lobby (opposite the women's restroom) **(Figure 10)**.

Elevator configuration varies slightly on tower floors. The four, easternmost elevator cabs access floors eight through sixteen. The 17th floor is a transfer floor and all eight elevator cabs open onto the elevator lobby and allows passengers to transfer to the four, westernmost elevator cabs for access to the tower's upper levels. The 18th floor is configured similarly to floors eight through sixteen though the four, westernmost elevators open onto the elevator lobby as opposed to the eastern elevators. The 19th floor continues the west elevator configuration. Elevator chases above the 18th floor are voids and house elevator equipment. The required fireproof construction at these locations, causes the elevator lobby walls to narrow on the east side. The mechanical equipment room on this level is immediately west of the elevator stair. Floors twenty through twenty-eight share the same elevator core plan. The two southwest and two

northeast elevator cabs open onto the elevator lobby at these floors. Additionally, one northeast cab serves as a freight elevator. Mechanical rooms on these floors are located directly east of the freight elevator.

Core elevator lobbies on floors eight through twenty-nine originally had the same finishes: elevator core lobby walls were faced in sheared white stone between elevator cabs and on east and west restroom corridor walls; much of this original material remains with some changes. Below the sheared white stone walls were honed white stone baseboards to match honed white stone surrounds at elevator call buttons. Restroom and janitor closet doors were hollow wood in a light finish with corresponding wood transoms (these details and materials are noted on the original drawings). Over time, as different tenants leased floors of the tower, elevator lobbies were altered. Despite these alterations over time, most core elevator lobbies retain their sheared stone walls between elevators and across from restrooms (15-16, 18-19, 21-28). No floor retained the sheared stone wall on the wall between the restroom entrances. Some tenants updated the sheared stone with a stain treatment applied directly onto the stone resulting in an "antiqued" appearance (9-11, 13-14, 17, 20 and 29). A few floors have a gypsum board finish; it is likely the original stone is extant beneath (7-8, 12). Several floors have updated floorboards in various materials including wood, tile, and rubber. Few floors retained the original honed stone floorboards. Elevator cab doors vary by floor, with most having a glossy paint finish.

Lobby floor finishes vary from floor to floor. Many floors have a tiled finish while others are carpeted. Many elevator core lobby ceilings retain an original configuration with a dropped ceiling with linear recessed lighting at the perimeter between elevator cabs. The original restroom, janitor, and stairwell doors are retained on most floors from eight through twenty-nine. Some tenant floors have modern replacement restroom doors that conform to ADA standards, which require a wider doorframe. The original restroom configuration is extant on a majority of the tower levels, and several retained original period fixtures and finishes. Though tenant improvements have resulted in some finish updates, the majority of core elevator lobbies continue to reflect the historic character of the building. Furthermore, the core elevator configuration retains its historic location on each floor from level eight through twenty-nine and continues to reflect the building's historic circulation pattern.

The eastern portion of each floor was designed for use as office space. As on the sixth floor, the interior office layout was not finalized in the original plans. Because leasing efforts were concurrent with construction, the original plans have speculative configurations and it is unclear how many, if any, were built as drawn. Current finishes suggest that the office portion of each floor on these levels has been updated to suit the needs of changing tenants, technology, and trends in office configuration. This is particularly apparent on the floors that were once occupied by SPS. They, as the co-primary tenant, occupied floors 21-29. Robert McKinzie, an interior design specialist, designed a range of specific features for the SPS spaces that included unique wall borders on each floor. Vinyl wallpaper used in the spaces were based on gear switches, insulators, and coolers. A former coffee bar on the 26th floor had elaborate iron grillwork doors and a big, lighted sign of Reddy Kilowatt, the company's mascot.[4] Those features were all removed by 1997 when SPS merged with New Century Energies.

Alterations on other floors appear to have begun in the early 1980s. Most alterations were for reconfigured office spaces due to growth or changing needs of existing tenants, or to satisfy the needs of new tenants. Alterations continue to change the spaces as needed for both single-floor and shared floor tenants.

Despite continuous alterations, two main office layouts exist. One includes a center corridor from the north stair door to the core elevator lobby, with offices aligning the corridor. This configuration matches closely with the proposed layout in the original plans and is present on floors 8-11, 13-15, 17-21, and 28. The second is a U-shaped floor plan with two flanking corridors with offices aligning the perimeter of each corridor and a central portion with open space, flexible space, or conference rooms. This configuration has many of the elements of the proposed layout in the original

[4] *Southwesterner*, Vol. 28 July 1971-June 1972, Southwestern Public Service Company, 12-13.

plans but appears to be the result of later alterations. This configuration is present on floors 12, 16, and 22-27. Office corridor walls and partition walls are full-height gypsum board. Most floors retain original 8'-6" metal framed wood doors. Some doors include metal frame sidelight glass. Though door locations have been altered on several floors, the historic door was reused in many instances. Common alterations to office space include the addition of chair rails and molding in corridors, office reconfiguration, and updated flooring **(Photo 14).**

Thirtieth and thirty-first floors – Amarillo Club
The building's 30th and 31st penthouse floors house the Amarillo Club, a members-only business social club and restaurant (**Figures 11 and 12)**. Like other tower floors, the Amarillo Club is accessed via the core elevator. On these floors, the three northwest and two southwest elevators open onto the core lobby. The core pattern on floors below are repeated on these floors, with men's and women's restrooms on the elevators' west side and an elevator stair in the northwest corner.

Elevator lobbies on the penthouse floors have wood paneling. Large wood panel doors inset with glass separate the lobby from the restaurant space to the east. On the 31st floor there is a full-height wood clad rounded section with a reception desk on its west side and a bar its east side. The area from the interior north wall to the southeast corner is open dining space. The ceilings are acoustic panel with recessed lights and rounded edge coffered portions with wood moldings. Concrete support columns on this level are wrapped in wood paneling. The west wall includes wood arch surrounds with alternating pilasters echoing the shape of the exterior arched openings at this level. The dining room floors are carpeted. The southeast corner houses the kitchen and features commercial grade kitchen equipment, acoustic tile ceilings, and tile flooring.

A steel spiral steel staircase with wood handrails on the floor's east side connects the 30th and 31st floors. The 30th floor repeats the same elevator core pattern on other tower floors and has the same wood finishes as Amarillo Club's top story. The 30th floor features a central north-south corridor lined with office and private dining rooms. The 30th floor's north east corner features the club dining and bar area. There is a second kitchen on the north side of the elevator lobby. Like the floor above, the rooms feature carpeted floors and dropped acoustic tile ceilings. Additional men's and women's restrooms are on the north end of the 30th floor, at the corridor's end. The Amarillo Club has been located on the building's penthouse floors since the building's opening. The space was designed by Amarillo architects Jim Wilson and Jim Doche. The general configuration remains as it was historically on both floors. On the 30th floor, the former Men's card room at the northeast corner has been enclosed and serves as a dining room. The women's room at this corner was also added later. The 31st floor plan is largely the same as well. Former partitions on the south end of the floor that delineated a women's lounge and business offices have been removed and the area is now part of the main lounge. The round bar and reception at the east side of the elevator was added later. The kitchen at the northeast side of the 31st is in its original location but was enlarged when the kitchen was updated. Finishes on both floors have been updated, as expected in a high-traffic restaurant and appear to date to the 1980s-2000s **(Photos 17 and 18)**.

Parking Attendant Booth

A small original parking attendant booth is positioned in the southwest corner of the parking lot near the corner of Southwest 7th Avenue and South Harrison Street. The building is clad in white split rib CMU and features a flat roof. There are windows on the east, south, and west elevations, with a door on the north elevation. An AC unit is positioned along the east elevation **(Photo 9)**.

Integrity

The spatial arrangement and public circulation patterns remain intact in the basement, ground floor lobby, parking garage, and upper tower office; these areas retain their integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. The integrity of materials has been compromised due to the finish updates overtime in keeping with commercial interior design trends. While most of the alterations to the first-floor spaces are more recent, elements of the original lobby remain intact, including the general floor plan. The west portion of the lobby and parking garage elevators were not included in the original design and were added during an early alteration to make the parking garage more accessible from the main lobby. Tower floors, too, have undergone recent alterations. However, the main circulation elements and details in each floor's core space remain in their historic configuration and retain historic elements like the original wood doors, mail chutes, and sheared stone walls. Updates to office floor plans have occurred on some tower floors, but many retain the original corridor location and original doors and sidelights. The Amarillo Club remains largely as it was originally planned with open dining on the 31st floor and private dining and office space on the 30th floor. Finishes on both floors of the Amarillo Club have been updated more recently.

The American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower has been in continuous operation since it opened in 1971. Changes to the building's interior have occurred over time as tenants changed. In 2017, one of the original tenants, Xcel Energy, vacated floors 21-29 to move into their own, newly constructed seven story office complex at East 8th Avenue and South Buchannan Street several blocks away. West Texas A&M University, which occupied three floors moved several of its offices to the Commerce Building at 8th Avenue and Tyler Street; the university still leases two floors in the building. The first floor bank tenant, Chase Bank, consolidated their branch locations and moved out of the building in 2018.[5]

The building retains its integrity of **location and setting** in Amarillo's downtown on South Tyler Avenue between 6th and 7th Avenues. The city's downtown is undergoing a renaissance with new cafes and restaurants concentrated along Polk Street. Early 21st century redevelopment of the Fisk Medical Arts building into a Marriott Residence Inn and the rehabilitation of the nearby Santa Fe building has contributed to the improved activity downtown. The integrity of **materials, workmanship and design** are reflected in the New Formalist style exterior including the white split rib CMU façade, honed white marble detailing, aluminum frame curtain glass and storefronts, and intact parking attendant booth. The integrity of **materials and workmanship** is further evidenced in the interior through the retention of the general circulation and layout. It is evident in several original historic materials including evidence of its poured concrete structure in the interior parking lot, the exposed structural columns in the first floor area, honed white stone and sheared white stone detailing in the elevator lobbies, and full-height metal frame doors in the office areas. The building retains **feeling and association** as a modern office building. Its significant height and modern design continue to dominate the Amarillo skyline. It remains the tallest building in the city and retains its integrity of **association** with a time of post-war development and growth.

[5] Nicolette Perrone, "Amarillo Skyline Changing as Chase Tower Loses Prominent Tenant," *KTRE,* *http://www.ktre.com/story/37229531/amarillo-skyline-changing-as-chase-tower-loses-prominent-tenant* (accessed August 15, 2018)

Statement of Significance

The American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower, located at 600 South Tyler Street, was the first and remains the tallest Midcentury Modern skyscraper on the Amarillo, Texas skyline. The building is a symbol of the city's post-war development, economic stability, and a commitment to maintaining its regional influence after the closing of the nearby Air Force Base in 1964. The 1964 City of Amarillo *Comprehensive Plan Report* specifically addressed the closure and articulated a plan to encourage public and private investment in high-rise development to revitalize downtown. The plan mentioned one large-scale development, which would later become the subject property. Local leaders looked to national trends for skyscraper development utilizing the newest in concrete technologies and hoped to model it in Amarillo. Tulsa developer, TransAmerica Group initiated the project and the building was named American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower for its major tenants, Southwestern Public Service Company, the regional public utility company, and the American National Bank of Amarillo. American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development because it represents the city's concentrated effort to elevate its prominence and encourage important businesses and organizations to remain in Amarillo with the construction of a large-scale signature building in downtown. It is also architecturally significant as a local example of New Formalist architecture and the work of Tulsa-based architects, Kelley Marshall and Associates. The building's architecture was unprecedented in terms of scale and reinforced concrete method of construction in Amarillo and the Panhandle. The period of significance begins in 1968, when the project was announced and its first renderings were revealed, and ends in 1971 when the building opened. Since construction of the property began over 50 years ago and its completion overlaps the 50 year period by a few years, claiming Criteria Consideration G is not necessary. The American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower is a significant contributor to the commercial, economic, and architectural history of Amarillo and is an important example of the city's commitment to post-war development.

American National Bank of Amarillo

The City of Amarillo was founded shortly after the arrival of the Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad. Railroad executives originally planned to run tracks to Panhandle City in Carson County, where it would intersect with the Southern Kansas Railway Company of Texas, a branch of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe. Henry B. Sanborn, often considered the "father of Amarillo," wanted the new rail line to run through his Frying Pan Ranch property. He was able to convince the railroad's construction arm to redirect their tracks about fifteen miles south, through the heart of Frying Pan Ranch in 1887.[6]

In 1887, J.I. Berry established a site for a town along the Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad, seeking to make the town the region's main trade center. In August 1887, Amarillo won the county seat of Potter County and its location near the railroad and availability of freight service made it a fast-growing center for the cattle industry. Before the arrival of the railroad in Amarillo, cattlemen moved their animals by way of Wild Horse Lake to Dodge City, Kansas, about 225 miles north. With the extension of the railroad though Amarillo, sellers could sell their livestock at Amarillo and could carry the animals to stockyards in Denver. In order to solidify their growing station as a trade center, Amarillo constructed additional sidings, corrals holding pens, and permanent loading chutes. The improvements made Amarillo the "great cattle shipping point in Northwest Texas." [7]

As the city and industry developed, the need for a banking system became evident. The first bank in the area was organized by J.C. Paul in May 1888 in Panhandle.[8] The First National Bank of Amarillo organized in 1889 and J.C. Paul served as President until 1896. In 1896 he was a cofounder of the Panhandle Bankers Association and was named

[6] Paul H. Carlson, *Greetings from Amarillo: The Story of a Western Town* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2006), p.22.
[7] Ibid., 29.
[8] *The Story of the American National Bank* (Amarillo, 1952).

its first president. In 1906 Paul helped to organize the Amarillo Bank and Trust Company and then served as its first president. Paul and his son purchased an interest in the Guaranty State Bank in Amarillo in 1919.[9] Meanwhile the bank itself evolved into the American State Bank and was the American National Bank by 1936.

Paul's sons, Howard and Frank, followed their father's footsteps and managed local banks, eventually becoming American National Bank's President and Vice-President, respectively. By the 1950s, the American National Bank of Amarillo was the city's premier bank. They opened a new bank building at Seventh and Tyler street in August 1952. The bank expanded to include a drive-in banking center on Harrison Street the same year.

The region was hurt in the 1950s by a drought that impacted many regional businesses. American National Bank of Amarillo was one of the institutions that held the Panhandle agricultural industry together despite a heavy demand for credit. The drought, however, triggered a revolutionary change in Panhandle agriculture. Irrigation farming, the tapping of underground water sources, turned the Plains into the world's largest production of grain sorghum and retained its leadership in production of wheat, cotton, cattle and petroleum. The result was an even greater demand for additional finance. Money flowed to the Panhandle and industrialization grew and infant irrigation industries grew into six-billion-dollar businesses. By the close of the 1960s, the Panhandle Plains had been recognized as the world's leading production center of agricultural and petroleum products. The growing industry and banking boom of the 1960s culminated in American National Bank of Amarillo announced construction of Amarillo's first skyscraper – The American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower.[10]

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS)
Southwestern Public Service Company was a publicly owned electric utility company begun in 1904 in Roswell, New Mexico by Maynard Gunsell. Later that year, banker G.H. Gillenwater purchased Gunsell's franchise and named it Roswell Electric Light Company. In 1903, the Amarillo Light and Water Company was founded. By 1907, Amarillo had an electric street car system and a power plant at First and Tyler to power the street cars. In 1912, Amarillo Light, Water, and Power was sold to City Services Company of New York and the operation of the rail cars was taken over by the city. In 1925, City Water and Light Company was sold to the Southwestern Public Service Company, marking its first expansion outside of New Mexico. SPS opened offices at 518 Taylor and employed 55 people.

The company continued to grow and purchase other regional providers. In 1927, Amarillo's East Plant was built on East 3rd Street. During the Great Depression, growth of the company slowed. However, in 1937 SPS began wholesale service to rural electric cooperatives. By this period, about nineteen electrical appliances were available to homeowners and the demand for electricity was high. The trend of growth and expansion continued into the 1940s and SPS' downtown Amarillo offices relocated to the Bivins Building at 5th Avenue and Polk Street. Continued growth required the Amarillo office to move a third time to the Rule Building at 3rd Avenue and Polk Street. The new office featured state of the art technology including a system control center and automatic dispatch.

During World War II Amarillo's Army Air Field and the Pantex Ordnance Plant created demand for electrical power, and also limited SPS' ability to meet those demands. The War Protection Board controlled materials during the war, greatly limiting SPS' ability to provide updates, improve equipment, and generate power. The Post War years initiated another period of rapid growth in Amarillo and demand for services. In 1952, SPS built a new power plant with one 50,000 KW generator. Two more generators followed in 1953 and 1955, both with a 100,000 KW capacity.

[9] Jo Steward Randall, "Paul, James Christopher," (Texas State Historical Association: accessed May 2, 2018) https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fpa56.
[10] Clara T. Hammond, *Amarillo* (Amarillo: Clara T. Hammond, 1974) p. 216

In 1971, SPS moved its new offices at the newly completed SPS Tower. The company used the move as an opportunity to showcase their work. Each floor that they occupied featured a showpiece like crossarms, streetlights, grillwork with a lightbulb motif, tables made of cable reels, and a large lighted sign. Of course, the building touted being all electric including the state-of-the-art kitchen in the penthouse Amarillo Club. SPS merged with Public Service Company of Colorado in 1997 to form New Century Energies. New Century merged with Northern States Power Company to form Xcel Energy in 2000.

SPS is a company that was established, grew, and remains in the Panhandle region it serves. Xcel Energy offices remained in the building until 2017, when they vacated and moved into a new facility five blocks to the east on Buchanan Street.

Amarillo Club

The Amarillo Club was founded in 1947 by businessmen who decided to create a "Business Men's Club." The first minutes of the Club described what the club would be stating, "it was decided unanimously that a high-type, men's downtown club was needed urgently and should be gone forward with promptly."[11] These same minutes go on to describe the club would be for members only and include dining, lounge, and card rooms. The basis of the club was modeled on the Fort Worth and Tulsa Clubs.

The club's first president was J.L. McCormick and the club's first order of business was to obtain downtown headquarters.[12] A site at Seventh Avenue and Polk Street was identified and Macon Carder, a charter member of the club, was selected as the project's architect. The club's design included the features mentioned in the first minutes as well as a second floor women's lounge. The Amarillo Club opened to much fanfare in 1948.

In 1968, the Tulsa developers TransAmerica Group, approached the Amarillo Club to purchase their building, as they envisioned needing the site for a new downtown skyscraper.[13] At the time, it was the only piece of land that the developer did not control on Tyler Street between 6th and 7th Avenue.[14] As a way to persuade the sale of the land, the developer proposed that the club move from its current site to the penthouse floors of the planned SPS Tower. The Amarillo Club entertained the initial offer but was initially reluctant to accept. The developers cautioned that a club would occupy the building's penthouse, even if it were not the Amarillo Club. The Club, though successful, lacked sufficient space and parking to offer dinner service – something the new, modern building would surely have.

The new club was designed by Wilson Doche Architects of Amarillo. The firm, made up of Jim Wilson and Jim Doche, created an updated space with flexible dining areas, a circular grand staircase, and club amenities necessary to continue to draw membership. The Amarillo Club moved to the new building in 1972 and continues to occupy the two penthouse levels. With more than 850 members, the Club continues to be an Amarillo institution.[15]

Amarillo's Founding and Post War Development

Amarillo's early development was tied to the expansion of railroads westward after the Civil War. The cattle industry flourished as a result and Amarillo prospered with rapid business growth as a shipping and distribution point. A two-story brick courthouse was built at Fifth and Bowie, a post office followed, and a local newspaper was soon in publication. An early resident, H.B. Sanborn, however, was not satisfied with the new town site and proposed moving the town around a principal business thoroughfare named Polk Street.[16] He achieved this design though a series of lot

[11] Minutes, *The Amarillo Club,* September 18, 1947
[12] "Amarillo Club Organized by Businessmen," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* September 10, 1947 24 Year No. 144
[13] Hal Marsh, "Contract for Bank Structure," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* January 2, 1970.
[14] "Turnstyle," *Amarillo Globe Times,* November 21, 1968,
[15] Sara Stone, "Amarillo Club Slates Move to SPS Tower" *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* August 25, 1971.
[16] David L. Nail, *Amarillo Montage: A Photographic Essay* (Amarillo: Staked Plains Publisher, 1979), p.2.

manipulations. He built the Amarillo Hotel at Third and Polk in 1888, and it became the social center and unofficial meeting place for cattle ranchers.[17]

The area continued to thrive, and industry further developed after World War I with the discovery of oil in 1921. In 1928 the discovery of Cliffside gas field, with its high helium content, led to the establishment of the United States Helium Plant by the Federal Bureau of Mines.[18] The Amarillo Helium Plant, built in 1928-29, was headquarters for the government's helium program, as well as the place where the technology for processing, producing, and shipping helium was developed.[19] In 1929, the Panhandle Air Service and Transportation Company was established.[20] The new industries created jobs and spurred downtown development. Amarillo's population had jumped from 9,957 in 1910 to 51,686 by 1940. During World War II, the population continued to boom when the Amarillo Army Air Field opened in 1942 and provided basic pilot training. The Pantex Ordnance Plant opened that same year and produced bombs and ammunition. By 1944, nearly half the city's population was Army Air Force personnel. [21] At this time, Amarillo's downtown was growing and was advertised as having the "best lighted main street in America."[22]

By 1960, the population had ballooned to 137,969. In 1964, the Department of Defense decided it would close the base.[23] Despite the potential economic crisis bred from the planned closure, the period was marked by municipal achievement. City leadership, headed by Mayor F.V. Wallace, developed a master plan for civic improvements. [24] The 1964 Comprehensive Plan Report for Amarillo addressed the air base closure and stated that the announcement "stimulated changes in the community which will ultimately reinforce Amarillo's decision to be the dominant regional service center of the High Plains."[25] Amarillo, in competition with nearby Lubbock to be the regional center of the area acknowledged that the loss of population from the base closure would be difficult, and the plan outlined several ways the city could avoid economic crisis. In an apparent effort to retain its influence the plan recommended both private and public investment in the community to maintain its regional and economic prominence, as well as its population.

The plan specifically addressed how downtown could be improved through new investment. It explains that the advent and dominance of the automobile and the need for retailer parking had dispersed business and retail activities away from the downtown core. It goes on to note that when retail is lost in an area, office facilities, financial institutions, and professional activities follow and lead to underuse in the downtown area. A goal of the plan was to reinvigorate downtown activity and promote downtown development. The city explained, "this trend for expansion in office, financial institutions and government services in the downtown area is a reflection of the change of Downtown Amarillo to a regional service and business capital of the wide Panhandle Area which Amarillo serves. It should be recognized that the service function of the downtown area is the most important future activity of this area."[26]

[17] H. Allen Anderson, "Amarillo, TX," (Texas State Historical Association: accessed May 2, 2018) https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hda02.
[18] H. Allen Anderson, "Amarillo, TX," (Texas State Historical Association: accessed May 2, 2018) https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hda02.
[19] "Drawings from Survey HAER TX-105-A," (Library of Congress: accessed May 2, 2018) https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.tx0974.sheet?st=gallery.
[20] H. Allen Anderson, "Amarillo, TX," (Texas State Historical Association: accessed May 2, 2018) https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hda02.
[21] *Amarillo Montage,* p. 139.
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ross Phares and Paul O. Cormier, "Amarillo Air Force Base," (Texas State Historical Association: accessed May 3, 2018) https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qba01.
[24] B. Byron Price and Frederick W. Rathjen, *The Golden Spread* (Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1986)
[25] City of Amarillo, *Comprehensive Plan Report: City of Amarillo, Texas* (Amarillo: City of Amarillo, 1964), p. II
[26] Ibid., p. 230

The comprehensive plan championed the trend of high rise development in the downtown core and explained, "it will be highly desirable to retain the relationship between high-rise office buildings and retail uses as it is considered mutually reinforcing to the office, employment, and retail operation."[27] The city's support for development envisioned a downtown that celebrated both twentieth century design and the lively return of the historic downtown core.

Finally, when discussing the importance of public and private investment, the city supported the creation of a large scale and distinguishing project stating, "usually, the efforts of individual property owners to rebuild or change the use of property will occur at different times and the overall scheme of improvement provides a framework for the private investment. Occasionally, however, a single individual or group may attempt to rebuild a portion of downtown by the creation of a center complex such as Rockefeller Center in New York or Place Ville Marie in Montreal or One Main Place in Dallas. Such massive rebuilding should be encouraged."[28]

Building the Tower

The private investment and signature project that the city was advocating for came through a joint effort of two Amarillo institutions – the American National Bank of Amarillo and Southwestern Public Service (SPS). A several page spread in the September 26, 1968 *The Amarillo Globe Times* relayed the plan introduced at a press conference held at the Amarillo Club. The article described that a 30 to 32-story building would change the Amarillo skyline **(Figure 4)**. The building would be the largest commercial building project ever undertaken in Amarillo and be known as the SPS Tower in honor of the public utilities tenant. The grand building was described by Frank Paul, the bank's president saying, "in beauty and in quality the new American National Bank of Amarillo will be equal to the finest commercial building to be found anywhere in the United States."[29] He went on to say that "in size, the building will have no equal from Dallas to Los Angeles or from Denver to Houston."[30]

In January 1969 the building's planned location from the east side of Tyler between 6th and 7th Avenues was moved to the west side of Tyler, allowing the existing bank building to remain open during construction. The new location was also desirable because the new building would face the Civic Center and further improve the appearance of 7th Avenue.[31] During this period, it was also announced that a third long-standing Amarillo institution, the Amarillo Club would move to the building's penthouse levels. Preparation for the new site began in 1969, which included the demolition of some smaller scale commercial development.[32] Construction on the building began in December 1969.[33] At the time, the building's permit was the largest single building permit ever issued by the city of Amarillo. At $12.5 million dollars, the project was by far the most expensive built in Amarillo and resulted in the highest fee ever collected by the city.[34]

The building was built to house about 1,000 employees and to represent a new Amarillo. The building's main floor was shared with the bank, complete with 14 teller windows, and the business offices on several tower floors for SPS. The main floor was ornate and finished with slate floors, onyx walls, and imported German chandeliers. The bank's lower level housed the safety deposit boxes, the money vault, commercial tellers, and personnel offices. The lower level walls were covered in an imperial tree bark and had a modern, geometric light fixture in the safety deposit box room. The commercial loan and bank executive offices were located on the building's seventh floor, with access to the

[27] Ibid., p. 232
[28] Ibid., p. 241
[29] "Skyscraper is Slated Here," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* September 26, 1968, 45 Year No. 158
[30] Ibid.
[31] Larry Lawrence, "New Location is Announced for Bank-Tower Building," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* January 09, 1969, 45 Year No. 232
[32] "The Rubble Stage," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* July 15, 1969, 46 Year No. 101; Larry Lawrence, "New Location is Announced for Bank-Tower Building," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* January 9, 1969; 1921-1955 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Amarillo, Texas, Vol. 1, Sheet 3, updated 1955, *ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970.*
[33] Fred Wortham Jr. "Construction Begins on 31-Story Tower," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* December 11, 1969, 46 Year No. 108
[34] Hal Marsh, "A Record Building Permit," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* January 2, 1970

roof terrace. There was a lunch room on the main level for bank employees and an executive dining room on the seventh floor.[35] The penthouse tenant was the Amarillo Club, a social club with, like the other tenants, deep roots and a long history in Amarillo. The design embraced modernity though the use of glass and concrete and was totally electric. At over 400 feet high, the building was twice as tall as any building in Amarillo and transformed the skyline forever. SPS moved into the 21st through 29th floors of the tower on October 22, 1971. American National Bank of Amarillo moved into its new banking headquarters on November 15, 1971. Early tenants included a range of professional offices - an insurance agency at the basement level, an accounting firm on the 15th floor, three different law firms on the 17th floor, and an employment agency and a law firm on the 18th floor. True to the city's history of ranching and cattle, 18th floor tenants included J.G. O'Brien & Sons Livestock and Western Beef Inc. The first floor bank has continuously been used as a bank branch location until only recently when vacated by Chase Bank in 2018. West Texas A&M University occupied several floors and a ground floor bookstore beginning 2008.[36] Other tenants continue to be professional services like attorneys, accounting firms, independent oil and gas companies, architectural offices, and insurance companies.

The construction of the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower encouraged larger development in downtown Amarillo almost immediately. Its local competitor, Amarillo National Bank, announced plans for a new building seven months after American National Bank went public with their building plan.[37] Amarillo National Bank was formed in 1892 by B.T. Ware as First National Bank of Amarillo. In 1909 he merged it with the Western Bank and Trust to form the Amarillo National Bank. The Ware family have owned and operated the bank since then. Amarillo National Bank began purchasing property in August 1968 to construct a multi-story building.[38] Located at Taylor Street and 5th Avenue, the 16-story Modernist concrete and glass building known as Plaza One, opened within a month of American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower and continues as the bank's headquarters today.[39] Unlike the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower, the Amarillo National Bank building was purpose built for the bank and does not include leasable office space for local businesses.

Tall in Texas

SPS Tower, Amarillo's first skyscraper, was by far the tallest building in Amarillo and began to redefine the area. It was the biggest building between Dallas and Denver. American National Bank of Amarillo used a rendering of the building in their advertisements beginning in 1968, using the slogan "Come Grow With Us" **(Figure 1)**. Other businesses followed. In April 1971, the Chamber of Commerce announced that the city's new slogan would be "Amarillo, Tall in Texas." The new slogan was featured on billboards and bumper stickers as part of a campaign to promote Amarillo.[40] The town's water tower was painted with the slogan in 12-foot letters.[41]

American photographer Stephen Shore released a series of postcards called "Greetings from Amarillo —Tall in Texas" in 1971 **(Figure 5)**. Famous for his images of American life, Shore traveled cross-country photographing cities. One of the images in the series includes the SPS Tower while still under construction. The artist explained, "what I did was choose 10 highlights of Amarillo." As the tallest building, it was easy to understand that the building was one of the city's highlights. [42]

[35] Jerry Searcy, "American National Bank Opens in Plush Skyscraper Quarters," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* November 16, 1971 Year 48 No. 181

[36] Dana Olmstead, "Chase Tower Site of WTAMU's Amarillo Center, http://www.wtamu.edu/news/chasetower.aspx (accessed August 15, 2018)

[37] "Pinnacle of the Plains," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* October 1, 2011, http://www.amarillo.com/news/local-news/2011-10-01/pinnacle-plains (accessed August 15, 2018)

[38] "Property Optioned to be Bank," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* August 06, 1968

[39] "History," *Amarillo National Bank,* https://www.anb.com/history.aspx (accessed August 15, 2018)

[40] Jerry Searcy, "We're 'Tall in Texas," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* April 07, 1971, 48 Year No. 34

[41] "Water Tank Painted with City's Symbol," *The Amarillo Globe-Times,* December 03, 1971, 48 Year No. 204

[42] A 2018 retrospective of Stephen Shore was on view at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMa) in New York and included the SPS Tower and several of the photographer's Amarillo photos.

Architectural Significance

New Formalism in Texas

New Formalism emerged in the 1950s and began to flourish in the 1960s as a rejection of the confines of Modernism. New Formalist buildings embraced many Classical architectural precedents such as building composition, proportion and scale, classical columns and entablatures, and the use of a colonnade. New Formalism is most commonly characterized by a symmetrical façade with columnar arched supports.[43]

The style represented a 20th century effort to use the Classical principles of the past while adapting new technology and popular features of the present to meet the needs of modern life. New Formalism concentrated on updating rather than recreating Classical forms and architects experimented with advances in concrete innovation and employed more plastic forms of the material available to create features like waffle slabs, folded plates, and umbrella shells. While still embracing the minimalist geometry and massing of earlier modernist buildings, New Formalist buildings had more decorative elements and often incorporated rich materials such as marble, granite, or man-made composites.

Edward Durrell Stone's (1902-1978) New Delhi American Embassy (1954) is considered the first major work of New Formalist architecture. The building is a modernist box with a brise-soleil front screen with a delicate colonnade of gold painted metal columns supporting a thin, exuberantly cantilevered flat roof. The style appears in the United States soon thereafter and was most often used for the design of cultural institutions and civic buildings. In the following years the style was used in the design of banks, apartment buildings, and skyscrapers to convey a sense of modernity, wealth and, prominence.

Stone helped to bring the style to Texas through several of his early Texas residences. At the I. H. Kempner, Jr. House (1952, demolished 2000), designed with Thomas E. Grasecen II in Houston, Stone used masonry solar screens as a decorative element.[44] For the Dallas home of Bruno and Josephine Graf (1957), Stone incorporated *brise-soleil*, or a screen grille, on an otherwise International Style box with connecting strip windows, echoing many of the details he used for the New Delhi American Embassy. In 1962, Stone also began the design for the Westgate Tower (NRHP 2010) adjacent to the west gate of the Texas Capitol (NRHP 1970), in partnership with Austin-based architecture firm Fehr and Granger. At Westgate Tower, Stone again used the *brise-soleil* to create shaded walls along a rectilinear box.

Along with Stone, architect Philip Johnson contributed to the flourishment of modernism in Texas.[45] A native of Ohio, buildings from Johnson's early career was based in the International Style due to the heavy influence of his mentor, Mies van der Rohe. In the 1950s, he began incorporating historical precedents in his work. He introduced abstracted curving ceiling forms on the interior of the of the Kneses Tifereth Israel Synagogue (1954) in Port Chester, New York. In the late 1950s, Fort Worth socialite Ruth Carter Johnson met Philip Johnson through her friends the de Menils at their home in Houston and approached the architect to design a memorial museum in Fort Worth to house the art collection of her father, Amon Carter.[46] Completed in 1961, the Amon Carter Museum is one of Texas' most important New Formalist compositions,, with its colonnaded entry portico defined by tapered shell-limestone columns and its front hardscape plaza. Johnson also designed the Beck House in Dallas, another quintessential New Formalist building with a two-story Roman-arched colonnade facade. Built in 1964, the Beck House arches are reminiscent of those Johnson used earlier at the Pavilion on the Pond (1962) at his signature New Canaan Glass House property (NRHP 1997).[47] Both Stone's and

[43] Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture,* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 664.
[44] Houston Mod, "Modern in Houston – Mod-no-more," http://houstonmod.net/bldg_detail.asp?id=131&by=lost&ss=2 (accessed August 14, 2018)
[45] James Stanley Walker, "Upward Nobility," *Texas Monthly* (July 1975): 74.
[46] Frank Welch, *Philip Johnson in Texas* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000), 81.
[47] McAlester, 663.

Johnson's pioneering works of New Formalism in Texas set the stage to influence developers throughout the state in their urban revitalization efforts and to service as inspiration for regional architects.

Designed by George Dahl and Thomas Stanley, the 1965 First National Bank Tower (NRHP 2017), a 52-story steel frame skyscraper in downtown Dallas, also served as an important precedent for the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower. Embodying a similar tower on podium configuration with glass curtain-walls, the design of the building reflected both New Formalism and post-war Corporate Modernism. While no references have been located directly link the First National Bank Tower and the American National Bank of Amarillo, Kelley Marshall and Associates were likely influenced by the First National Bank when they envisioned the tower in Amarillo.[48]

Examples of New Formalism are seen throughout the Panhandle. The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Building at Southwest 8th Avenue and Jackson Street in Amarillo is a good vernacular example of the style. With columnar supports and an ornamental concrete screen, it employs the signature elements of the style. Another local government building in the Panhandle that was designed in the New Formalist style is the Plainview City Hall. The use of the style in civic and government buildings demonstrates how the vocabulary of the style was adapted to convey contemporary ideas and new investment.

Kelley Marshall and Associates

American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower was designed by the Tulsa, Oklahoma firm of Kelley Marshall and Associates. Jack Kelley (1930-2015) and Thomas Marshall (1927-2015) were lead architects and hired local architect, Arthur Vaughn (1928-2014) as the associate for the project.

Jack Kelley was born in West Texas and moved to Tulsa as a child. He went on to earn degrees in architectural design and structural engineering from Oklahoma State University and did graduate work at Cornell University.[49] Thomas Marshall served in the US Navy before earning degrees in architecture from North Carolina State University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Kelley and Marshall partnered early in their careers and formed Kelley Marshall and Associates in 1959.[50]

Their early projects were high-rise buildings that changed the Tulsa skyline. An early project was the Petroleum Club Building (1963), a 16-story Modernist style building with horizontal bands of fixed gray glass ribbon windows with alternating bands of green metal spandrel panels **(Figure 13)**. A contributing resource in the National Register Oil Capital Historic District, it includes strong vertical concrete elements at two of its corners and concrete bands above recessed glass at the ground and mezzanine level as well as the roofline.[51] Though more closely aligned with the International style, it shares many elements of the American National Bank of Amarillo, like the alternating glazing and spandrel panels and the concrete elevator tower. The Petroleum Club Building also included a penthouse dining club.

In the following years, Kelley Marshall and Associates began to focus their work on not just high-rise construction, but in building skyscrapers and at one point had designed the tallest building in each of fifteen cities, from Spokane, Washington to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.[52]

[48] First National Bank Tower, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2017, on file at Texas Historical Commission, 11, 12-14, 16-17.
[49] Tim Stanley, "Rites Held for Jack Kelley, Tulsa Architect, Oilman, Nautical Archaeology Enthusiast," *Tulsa World,* September 23, 2015.
[50] "Thomas F. Marshall," *Tulsa World,* December 20, 2015, https://www.tulsaworld.com/obituaries/localobituaries/thomas-f-marshall/article_e261bac1-dd71-5dfa-a50f-d1e47a1adc2c.html, (accessed August 15, 2018)
[51] National Register of Historic Places, Oil Capital Historic District, Tulsa County, OK, National Register # 10001013
[52] Tim Stanley, "Rites Held for Jack Kelley, Tulsa Architect, Oilman, Nautical Archaeology Enthusiast," *Tulsa World,* September 23, 2015

Their designs were rooted in modern principles that came to define corporate architecture during this period. The buildings they designed, including the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower, implemented a square or rectangular footprint, simple cubic form, windows running in horizontal rows forming a grid or band pattern, and all façade angled at 90 degrees. They also repeated general design patterns for their corporate skyscrapers. Many of their projects feature columns, a tower-on-podium composition, enclosed parking, and curtain wall construction.

Their first skyscraper project was the Fourth National Bank Building in Tulsa **(Figure 14)**. Built in 1967, and also a contributing resource to the Oil Capital Historic District, the 32-story building shares many design elements that were later used for American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower. Like the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower, it features a tower-on-podium with enclosed parking in the base portion. Its tower, too, has alternating metal spandrel and glass panels, a concrete clad elevator tower, a terrace level at the base roof, and a two-story penthouse with a pronounced cornice.

In the years before building the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower, Kelley Marshall and Associates designed two skyscrapers in Indiana – the Liberty Tower in South Bend and the PNC Center in Fort Wayne **(Figures 15 and 16)**. The Liberty Tower was constructed for American National Bank and originally included a tower-on-podium with six levels of enclosed parking in the base podium, and ten levels of hotel space, eight levels of office space, and a penthouse restaurant level in the tower.[53] The composition and program of this building is similar to the American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower, its design includes a stronger horizontal emphasis in the tower and less prominent cornice detail at the penthouse level. In 2014, the Liberty Tower's hotel closed and a $30 million redevelopment of the property began in 2015 to renovate the hotel and convert the office space into 83 apartments.[54] The PNC Center, originally called the Fort Wayne National Bank Building, in Fort Wayne is a 26-story building with a tower-on-podium composition. It was the tallest building in Fort Wayne from 1970-1982. Like the Liberty Tower and the Fourth National Bank Building, the PNC Center included a concrete clad base and elevator tower and alternating metal spandrel panels and glass. Though a pattern had emerged in Kelly Marshall and Associates' skyscraper designs, each building had slight differences in materials and details that set each building apart. Despite a period of flourishment and success, Kelley and Marshall ended their partnership in 1975.

Though Kelley Marshall and Associates impacted the skyline in several cities' first or tallest skyscraper building, most communities went on to build taller skyscrapers in the following decades. In Amarillo the American National Bank and SPS Tower remains the tallest by far on the skyline. The construction of SPS Tower was unique for its unprecedented scale in Amarillo, the Texas Panhandle, and West Texas as well for its method construction. Unlike many skyscrapers of this era, this building employed reinforced concrete construction technology instead of steel, the industry preference. A reinforced concrete building is constructed one story at a time and takes considerably more time than using structural steel: each floor was framed by carpenters, the poured and cured before process was repeated on the floor above. This construction method explains why the project took about two years to complete. Major structural support was created through six large piers twelve feet in diameter and flaring twenty-four feet and continuing down for eighty-five feet. And 50,000 cubic yards of different types of concrete was used in its construction.

Reinforced concrete construction of skyscrapers began in 1902 with the construction of the Ingalls Building in Cincinnati. Standing at 210 feet, the 16 story building is still in use today. After World War II, concrete buildings began to exceed twenty stories. In the mid-1950s when elastic design – design that relied on uniform distribution of weight – was replaced by ultimate strength design – design that relied on tensile strength – concrete building heights began to rise. Improvements in structural concrete design were matched with improvements in the material itself lightweight concrete reduced building dead loads. In rapid succession, the world's tallest reinforced concrete buildings were

[53] "Liberty Tower," *Emporis*, https://www.emporis.com/buildings/127383/liberty-tower-south-bend-in-usa (accessed August 15, 2018)
[54] Ibid.

surpassed. One Main Place (NRHP 2015) in Dallas, which was specifically mentioned in the city's comprehensive plan as a model for development, also used improved concrete technology in its construction. Built in 1965, two distinct methodologies were used for producing aggregate finishes. The combined processes were similar to standard reinforced concrete construction, but included the addition of a cage of wire mesh placed three inches from the interior surfaces of the forms. Decorative aggregate was then placed between the mesh and the form. Then, a specially formulated cement was placed at the center of the column and, with the use of vibration, made to flow into the voids of the decorative stones. Technologically, the building was amongst the most advanced of its day.[55] The design and construction of SPS Tower reflects this trend in advancement in concrete technology and construction and Kelley Marshall Associates were able to provide many cities, including Amarillo, with their tallest, most modern buildings. SPS Tower is an excellent local example of a New Formalist corporate skyscraper built with reinforced concrete.

Conclusion

The American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower was built as the bank's headquarters and was designed by architects Kelley Marshall and Associates of Tulsa with associate architect Arthur Vaughan. The 31-story tower-on-podium building was Amarillo's first Midcentury Modern skyscraper and remains the tallest building in the Texas Panhandle. Designed in 1968 and opened in 1971, the building housed the regional utility company, Southwestern Public Service Company, with the American National Bank of Amarillo as an anchor ground floor tenant. The result of private investment and public support, the New Formalist style building became a symbol of the city's post-war development, economic stability, and a commitment to maintaining its position as a regional service center. The American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development at the local level of significance. As the largest building in the city, it became the visual focal point of downtown as well as the center for business, helping to encourage local development after the closing of the Air Force Base in 1964. The building is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level as a distinct example of a reinforced concrete New Formalist skyscraper. The period of significance ranges from 1968-1971.

[55] National Register of Historic Places, One Main Place, Dallas County, Texas, National Register # 15000245.

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Maps

Map 1: Google Earth Map, Accessed January 2019

Map 2: American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower Site Plan

Site boundary
American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower – Contributing
American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower Parking Attendant Structure – Contributing

Figures

Figure 1: American National Bank of Amarillo Advertisement, 1968
Source: Amarillo City Directory, 1968

Figure 2: American National Bank Building and SPS Tower Rendering, 1968
Source: Southwesterner, Vol 25

Figure 3: American National Bank Building and SPS Tower Under Construction, facing northwest c.1969
Source: Building Owner

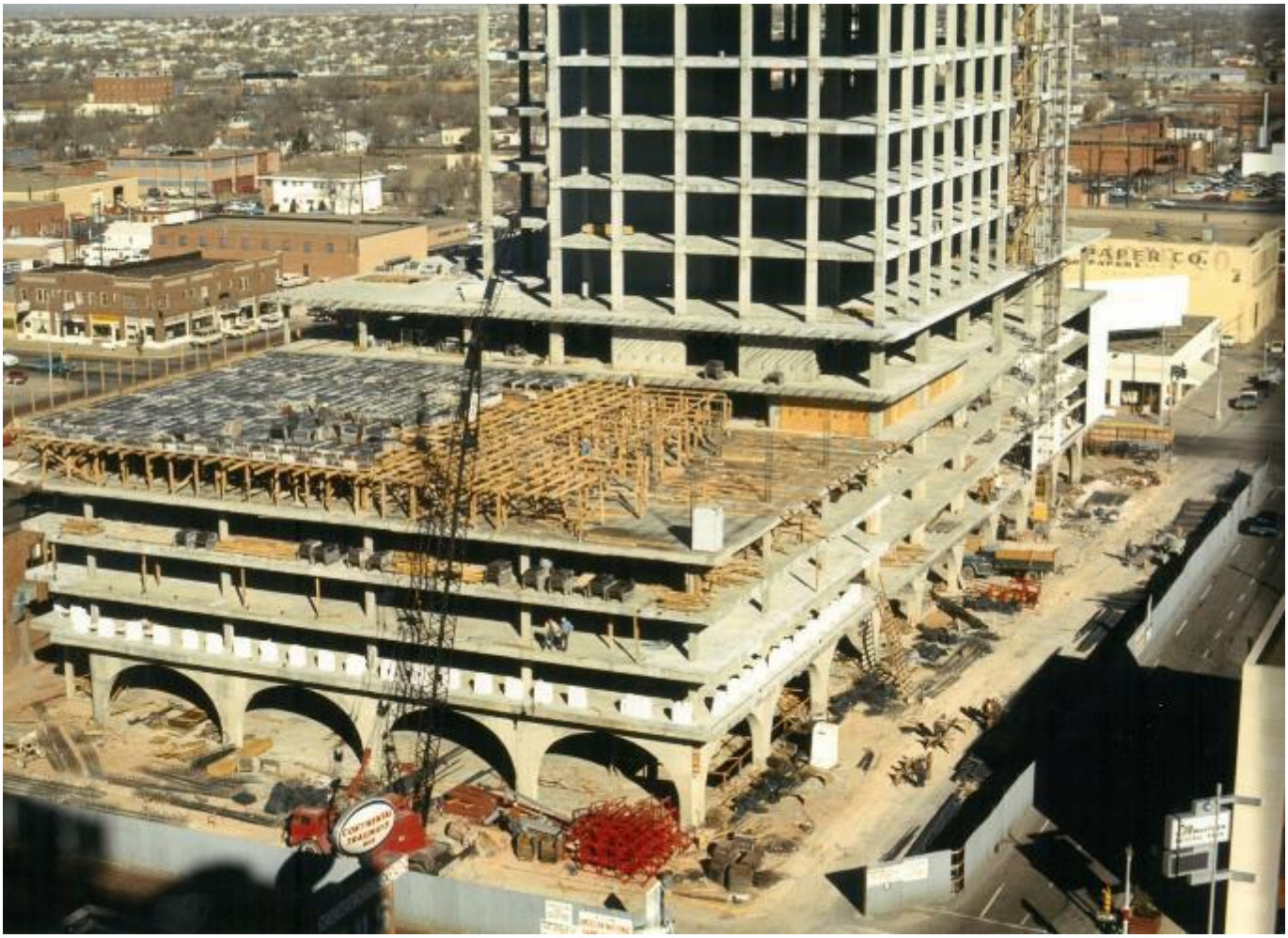

Figure 4: American National Bank Building and SPS Tower Aerial, facing west c. 1970
Source: Building Owner

Figure 5: Postcard of American National Bank of Amarillo and SPS Tower from Stephen Shore's *Greeting from Amarillo: Tall in Texas* postcard series
Source: MoMA

Figure 6: Matchbook, c. 1970
Source: EBay

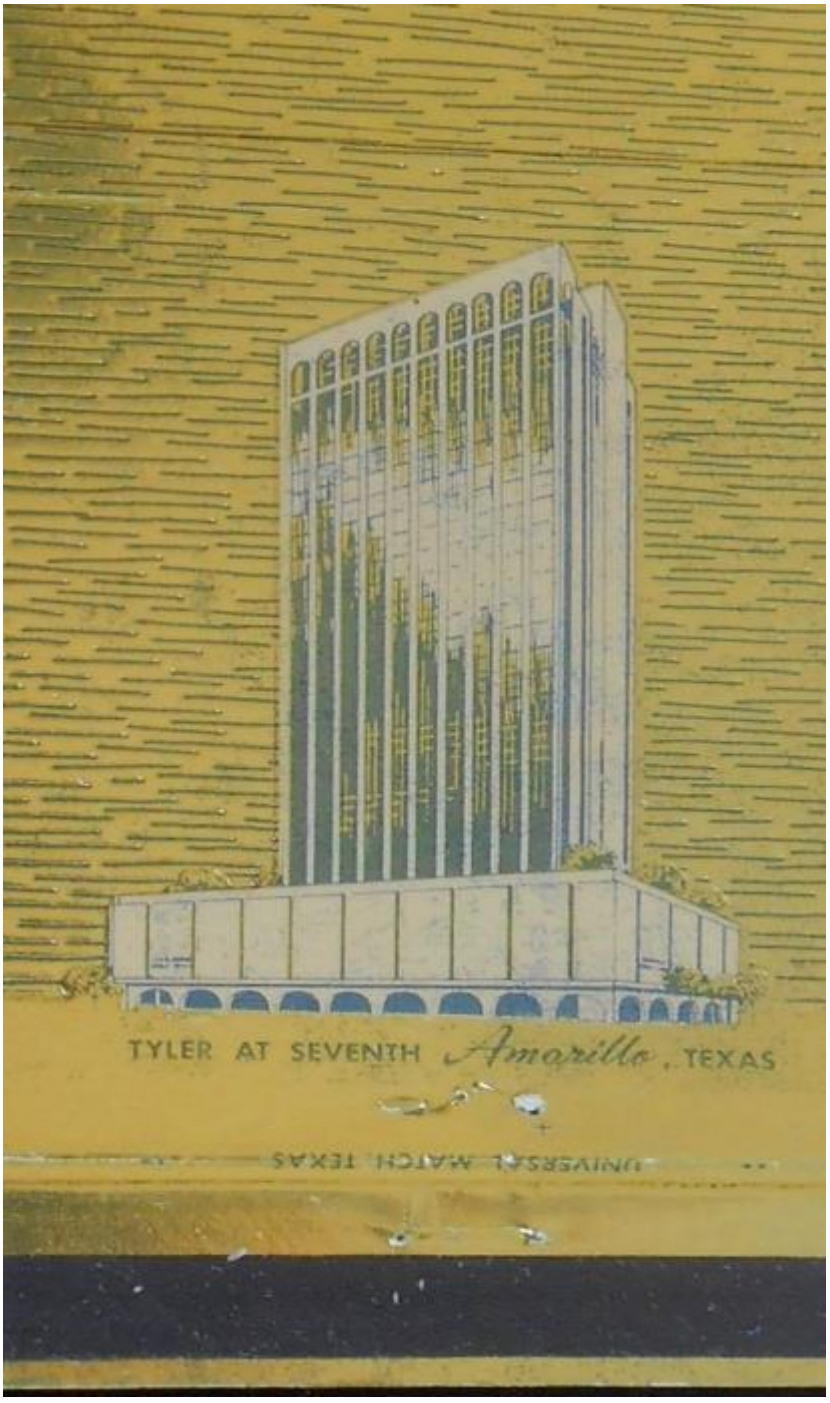

Figure 7: First Floor Plan, 1968
Source: Kelley Marshall & Associates

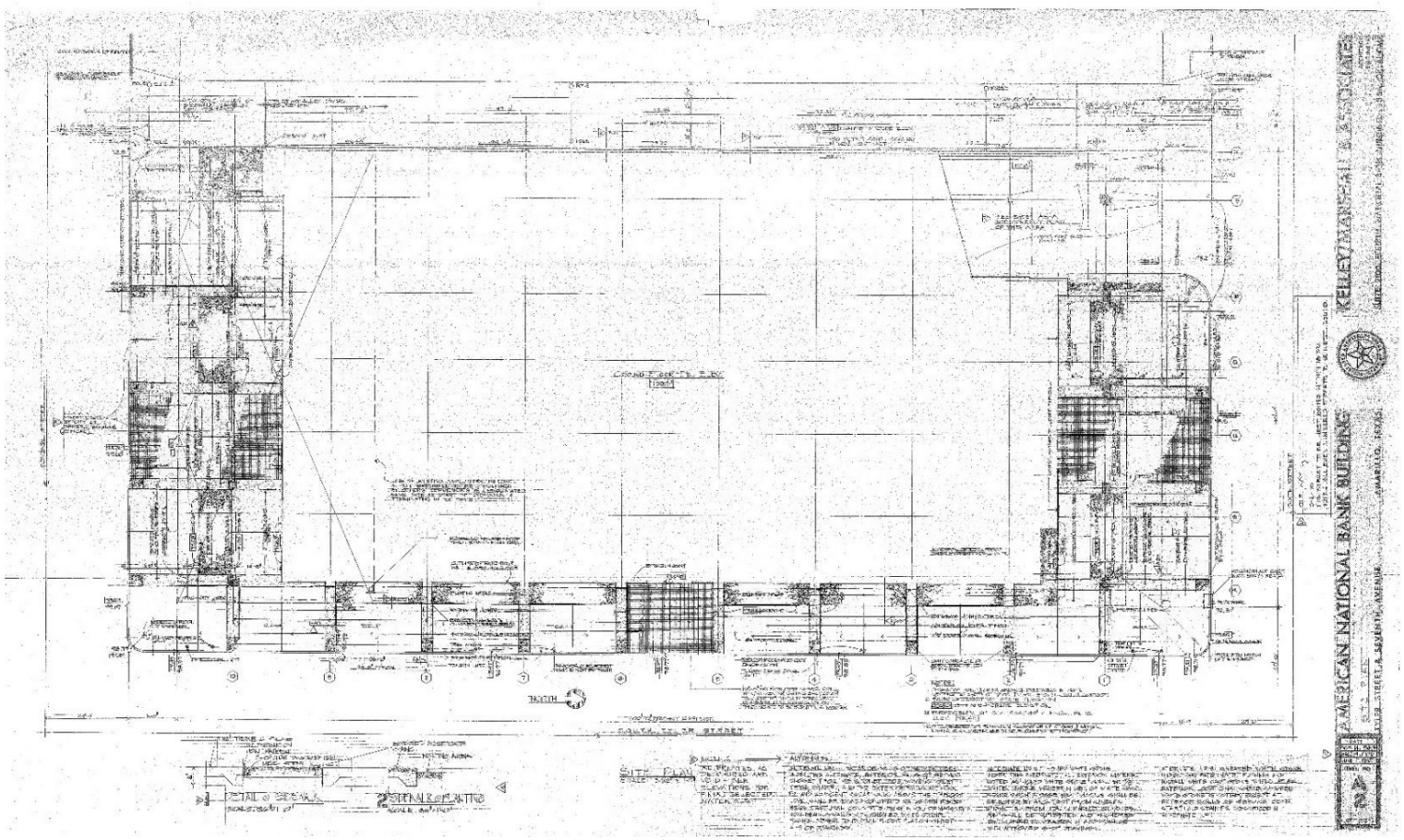

Figure 8: 3rd- 5th Typical Floor Plan, 1968
Source: Kelley Marshall & Associates

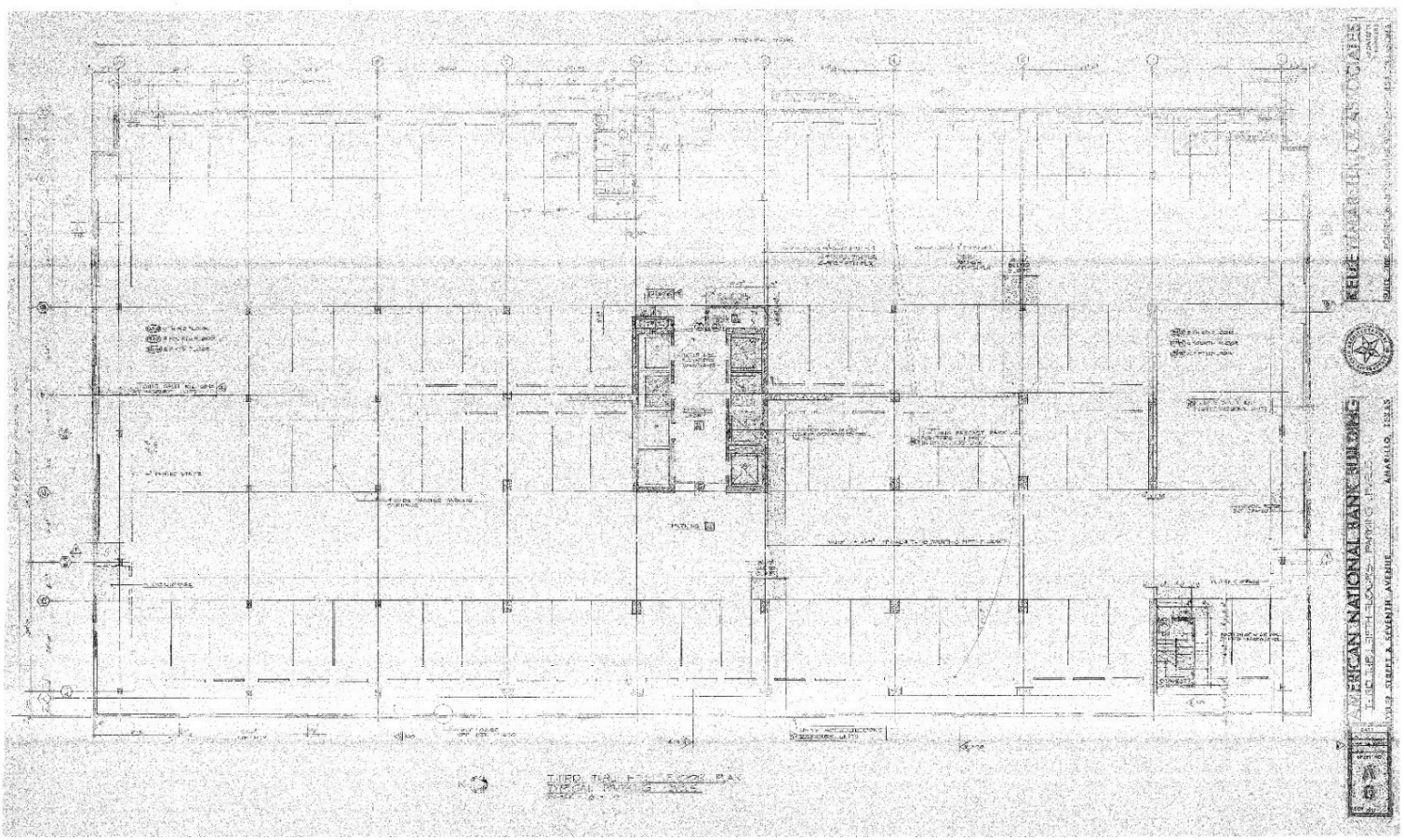

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Figure 9: Sixth Floor Plan, 1968
Source: Kelley Marshall & Associates

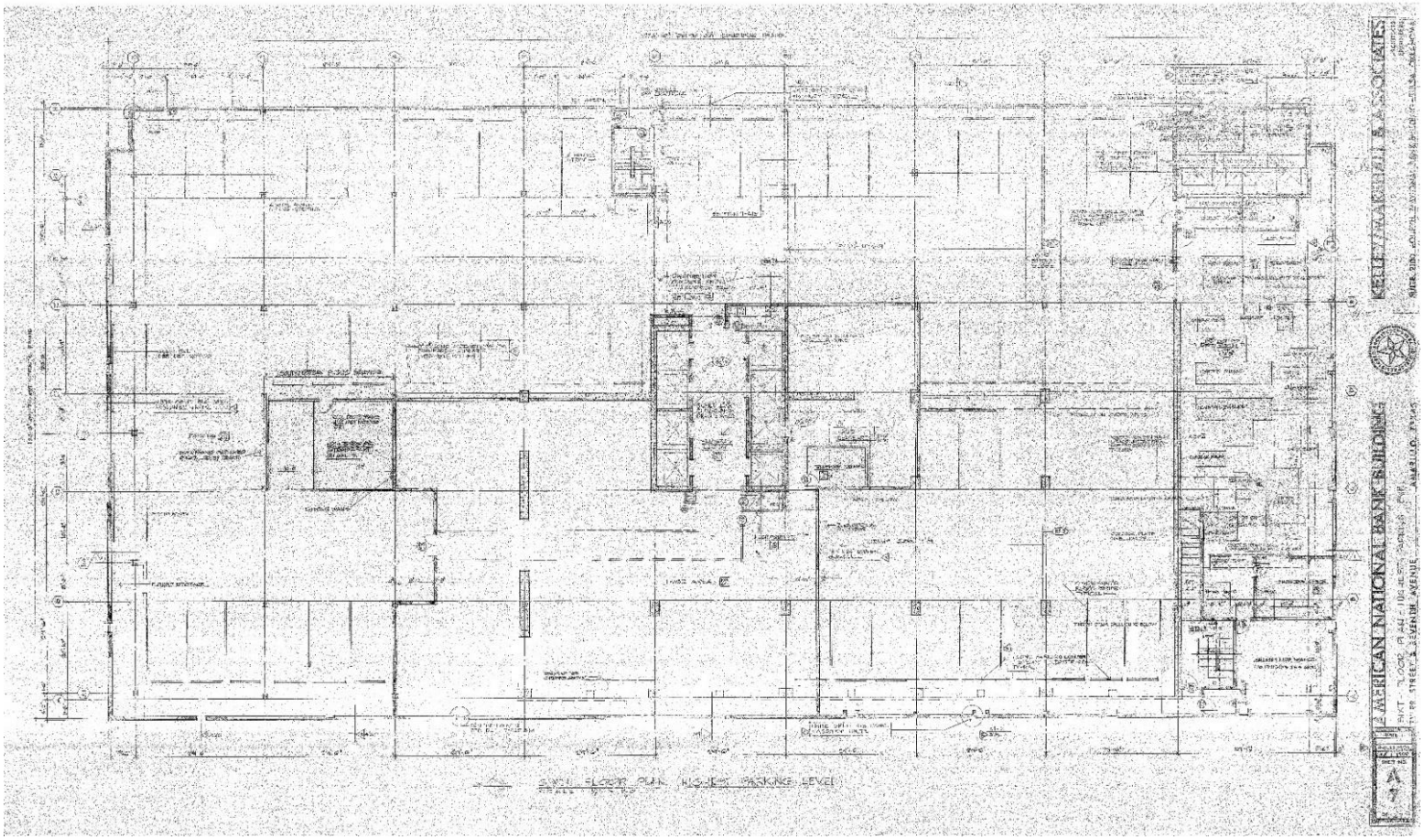

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Figure 10: 8th – 28th Typical Floor Plan, 1968
Source: Kelley Marshall & Associates

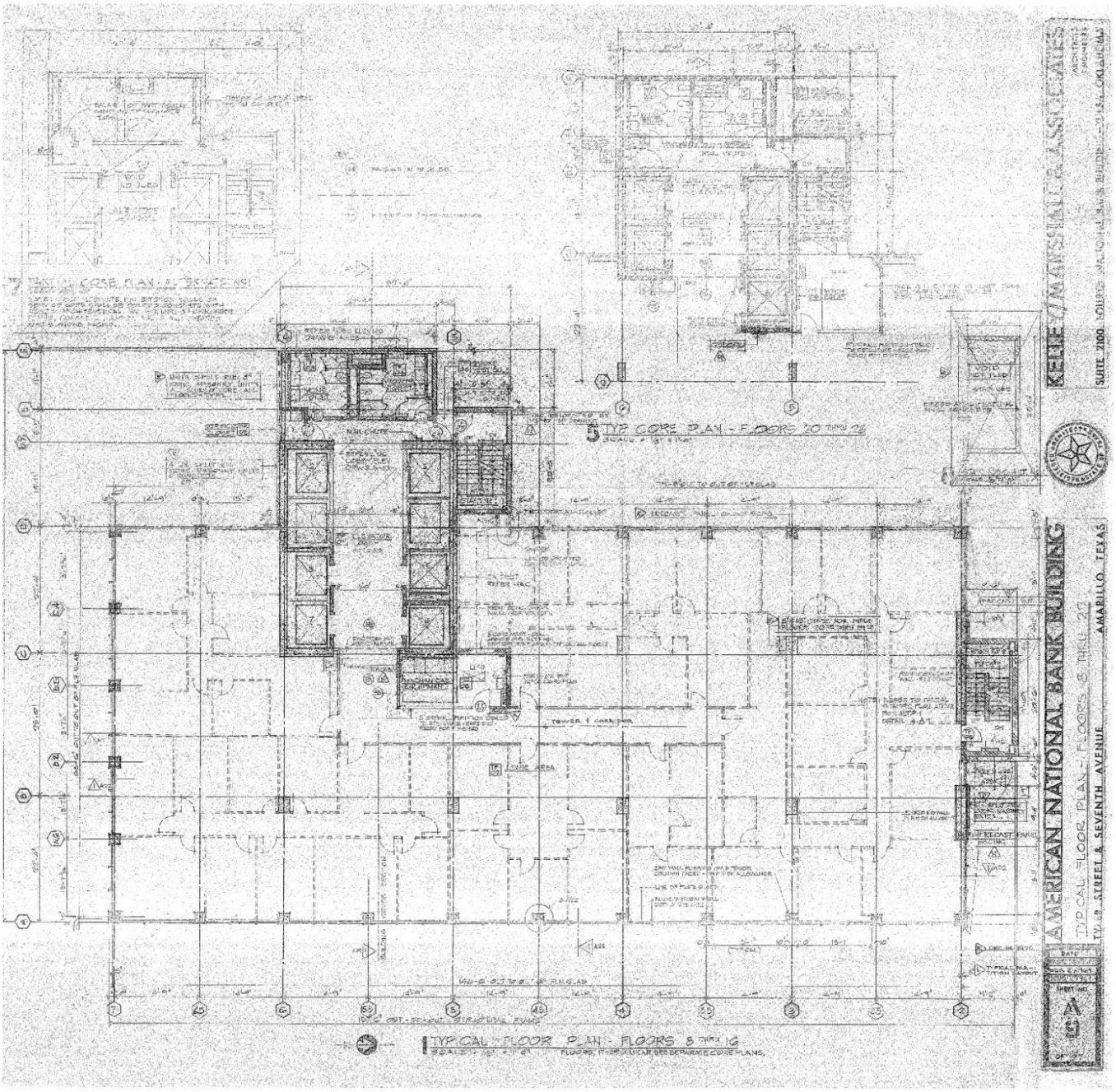

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Figure 11: 30th Floor Plan, 1968
Source: Kelley Marshall & Associates

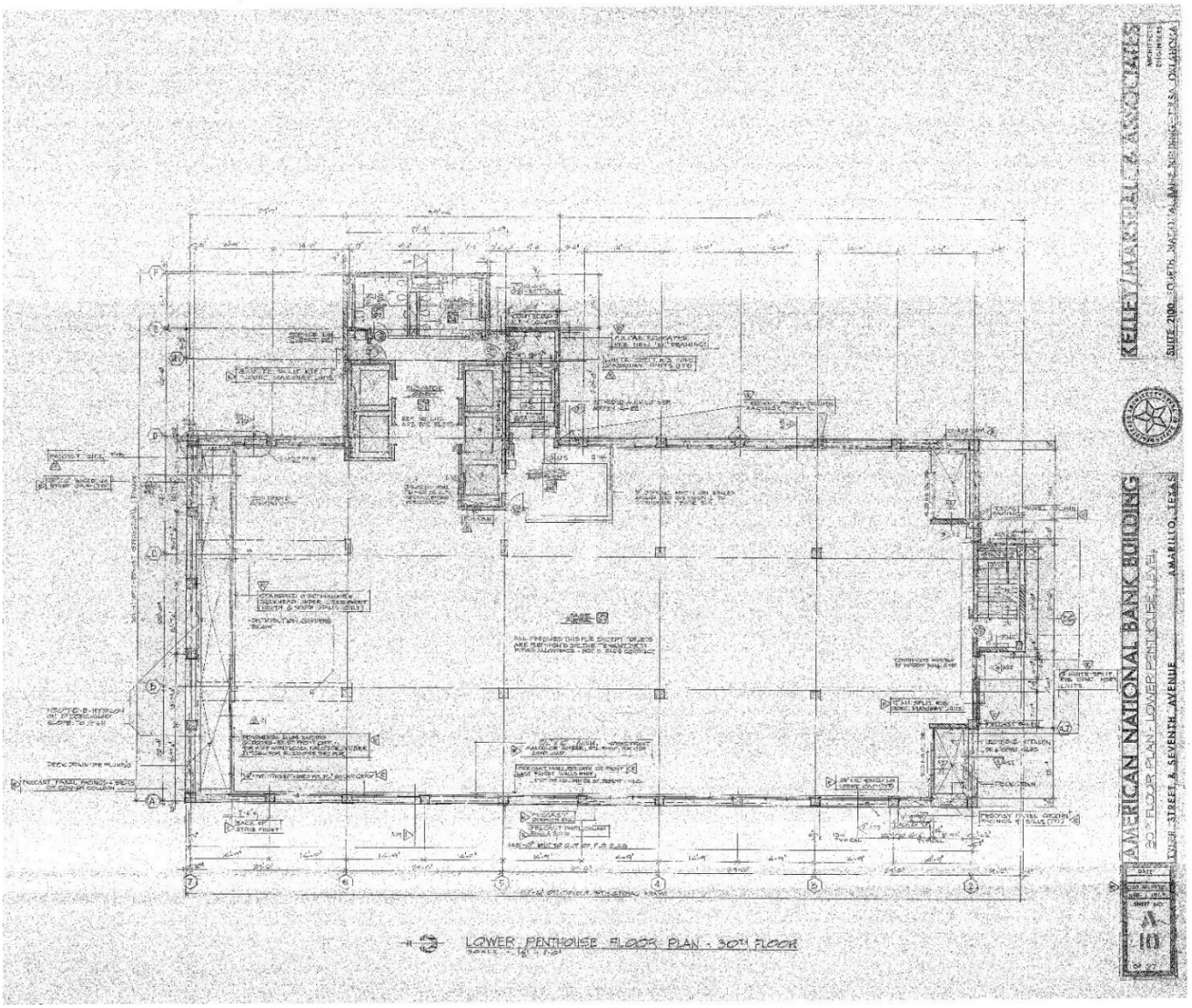

Figure 12: 31st Floor Plan, 1968
Source: Kelley Marshall & Associates

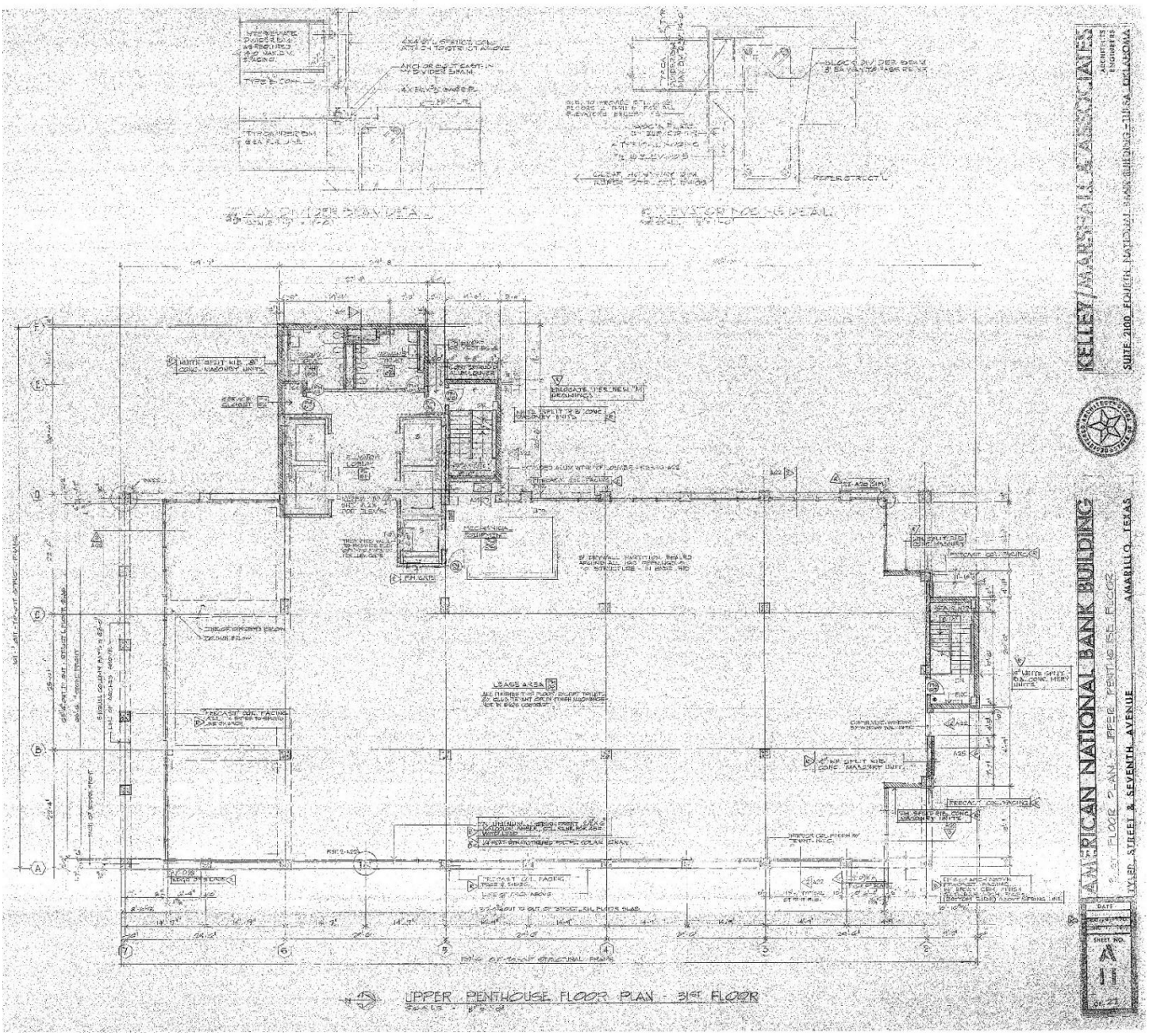

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Figure 13: Petrolueum Club, Tulsa, designed by Kelley Marshall & Associates, circa 1970s. Source: Mullerhaus Legacy

Figure 14: Fourth National Bank, Tulsa, designed by Kelley Marshall & Associates. Source: Wikipedia.

Figure 15: Liberty Tower, South Bend, Indiana, 2018, designed by Kelley Marshall & Associates. Source: LoopNet.

Figure 16: PNC Center Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2018, designed by Kelley Marshall & Associates. Source: LoopNet.

Photos

Photo 1
East elevation
Camera facing southwest

Photo 2
East elevation
Camera facing west

Photo 3
South elevation
Camera facing north

Photo 4
North elevation
Camera facing south

Photo 5
West (right) and north (left) elevations
Camera facing southeast

Photo 6
West elevation
Camera facing east

Photo 7
Ground floor arcade
Camera facing west

Photo 8
Marble tile detail at ground floor
Camera facing southeast

Photo 9
Parking attendant station
Camera facing south

Photo 10
Ground floor elevator lobby
Camera facing west

Photo 11
Ground floor bank
Camera facing south

Photo 12
Bank basement vault
Camera facing west

Photo 13
Thirteenth floor door detail, typical
Camera facing south

Photo 14
Fifteenth floor cooridor
Camera facing north

Photo 15
Nineteenth floor elevator lobby with sheared white stone wall detail
Camera facing east

Photo 16
Nineteenth floor mail chute
Camera facing east

Photo 17
Amarillo Club thirtieth floor spiral stair
Camera facing east

Photo 18
Amarillo Club dining room, thirty first floor
Camera facing south