

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

**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: First National Bank Building  
Other name/site number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**2. Location**

Street & number: 198 South Belknap Street  
City or town: Stephenville State: Texas County: Erath  
Not for publication:  Vicinity: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 5/21/15  
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

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

**Current Functions:** WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

**Principal Exterior Materials:** STONE

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7-7 through 7-15)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<b>X</b>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1889-1902

**Significant Dates:** 1889, 1897, 1902

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

**Architect/Builder:** Gordon, James Riely

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 8-16 through 8-22)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheets 9-23 through 9-24)

### 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:

- 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): N/A

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property:** less than one acre

### Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 32.219679 Longitude: -98.202645

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The property is described as Lot A of Block 7 of the City of Stephenville, Erath County, Texas as shown on King's 1956 map of Stephenville, Erath County, Texas, adoption thereof recorded in volume 381, page 105 of the deed records of Erath County, Texas. The building occupies the entire lot.

**Boundary Justification:** Nomination includes all property historically associated with the building.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Andreea Hamilton, RA and Marcel Quimby, FAIA  
Organization: Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture  
Street & number: 3200 Main Street, Suite 3.6  
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Date: 04/01/2015

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheets Map-25 through Map-30)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets Figure-31 through Figure-40)

**Photographs** (see log on page 5 and continuation sheets Photo-41 through Photo-51)

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## Photographs

Name of Property: First National Bank Building  
City or Vicinity: Stephenville  
County, State: Erath County, Texas  
Photographer: James F. Wilson  
Date Photographed: December 04, 2014  
Number of Photos: 12

**The following images accompany this nomination document. For reference, these images are also included at the end of this document starting with page 40.**

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0001.tif  
South Elevation. Camera facing: North

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0002.tif  
South and West Elevations Oblique. Camera facing: Northeast

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0003.tif  
East Elevation. Camera facing: West

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0004.tif  
South and East Elevation Oblique with Corner Entrance. Camera facing: Northwest

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0005.tif  
North and East Elevation Oblique. Camera facing: Southwest

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0006.tif  
Close-up of South and East Elevation Oblique with Corner Entrance. Camera facing: Northwest

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0007.tif  
Close-up of South and East Elevation Oblique with Turret. Camera facing: Northwest

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0008.tif  
Interior of First Floor Banking Space. Camera facing: East

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_0009.tif  
Detail of Original Decorative Plaster Frieze. Camera facing: West

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_00010.tif  
Interior of Second Floor East Offices. Camera facing: West

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_00011.tif  
Interior of Second Floor Office with Turret. Camera facing: Southeast

TX\_Erath County\_First National Bank Building\_00012.tif  
Interior of Second Floor Corridor. Camera facing: West

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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## Narrative Description

The historic First National Bank Building in Stephenville, Texas, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, is located at the northwest corner of South Belknap and College Streets facing the 1892 Erath County Courthouse. Designed by architect James Riely Gordon of San Antonio<sup>1</sup> and completed in 1889, this 2-story, rectangular stone building exemplifies the typical commercial block building popular in small Texas towns' main streets in the late 19th and early 20th century. The building has exterior load-bearing walls of light grey limestone in a rusticated finish and ashlar pattern with beaded mortar joints. Limestone is a common material used in North Central Texas and was presumably quarried nearby. This two-part vernacular commercial building, designed in the Romanesque style, features many elements that are typical of this style: rough stone exterior with water course at the first floor level, rough stone arched entry at the main door, rough stone arched cast iron storefront with windows, stone window sills and lintels, and finials at the roof. The original stone pediment at the roof above the corner entrance, no longer extant, was not consistent with this style and was presumably used to emphasize the building's corner entrance below. At the first floor the exterior walls are approximately 32" thick and decrease in thickness at the second floor and roof. Wood floor joists span the narrow dimension of the building at the first and second floors and roof; a crawl space exists below the first floor.

In 1897, a fire destroyed the entrance corner of the building; subsequently a new entrance, with a Neoclassical portico and pediment, Queen Anne-style turret and conical roof was added. The only later changes to the building's exterior were a modification to the cast iron storefront on South Belknap Street to incorporate a new door within a portion of the existing opening, replacement of the original wood windows in an early 1990s rehabilitation with new wood windows in the existing openings and matching the original window configuration, and re-roofing of the flat roof with built-up and rolled roofing.

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## Stephenville

Stephenville, Texas, the county seat of Erath County, is a city with a population of approximately 19,000 occupying 11.89 square miles in North Central Texas, approximately 100 miles southwest of Dallas. Stephenville was founded in 1856 and was incorporated in 1889, at the same time as the arrival of the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railroads. Early in its history, Stephenville was home to buffalo hunters, and over time it grew into an agricultural and livestock center. Between 1886 and 1916 coal mining was active in Stephenville, and there was also a brief oil boom from 1918-1920. By 1945, ranching was the primary source of income in Stephenville. Currently the leading industry in Stephenville is agriculture, followed by manufacturing, an industry that began to take root in the area in the 1950s and recently gained importance, with six major manufacturing firms currently operating in the area. Education is another reliable pillar to Stephenville's economy. Tarleton University, founded in 1899 as Tarleton College, became a part of the Texas A&M University System in 1917 and was officially recognized as a University in 1973. The university plays an important role in the economy and life of Stephenville, with a current enrollment of over 11,000 students.

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<sup>1</sup> *First National Bank Building*, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark report, Stephenville, Texas, 1994. On file at the Texas Historical Commission.

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Downtown Stephenville occupies an area of five square blocks centered around the 1892 Erath County Courthouse and bound by Green Street to the north, Long Street to the south, Barton Street to the west and Floral Street to the east. Dating from the 1880s and 1890s, downtown Stephenville is comprised mainly of one-part and two-part commercial block buildings typical of small Texas towns in the late 19th and early 20th century, oriented around the three-story county courthouse. This has been the center of life in Stephenville until the last few decades, when the growth of the city oriented at the perimeter began shifting the focus away from the courthouse square. Consequently, downtown Stephenville has seen some decades of decline. Still, downtown Stephenville remains the center of local government, with the County offices still housed in the historic courthouse and with other city offices nearby. Recent upsurge in retail and restaurants downtown have contributed to the much needed revitalization of the area.

### **Setting**

The historic First National Bank Building is located in the heart of downtown Stephenville, Texas, the county seat of Erath County, on the courthouse square. Occupying a prominent location at the northwest corner of South Belknap and West College Streets and facing the three-story Erath County Courthouse, the First National Bank Building is surrounded by one and two story commercial vernacular buildings erected along the perimeter of the square and on the adjacent streets leading into the square. The First National Bank Building is the first of three James Riely Gordon buildings constructed on the courthouse square; the Erath County National Bank (Crow Opera House) and the Erath County Courthouse were both constructed following the First National Bank Building, in 1891 and 1892 respectively. All three of these James Riely Gordon buildings are Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, with the Erath County Courthouse also on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Building Exterior**

#### *General*

The historic First National Bank Building in Stephenville, Texas, is a rectangular two-story building of approximately 81' by 25' occupying the entire lot at the intersection of South Belknap and West College Streets. Constructed in the Romanesque architectural style of load bearing limestone of a light grey color, the building features some of the architectural elements typically associated with this style, such as rusticated stone exterior, wide arches accentuated with rough stone, and deeply recessed windows and doors arranged in a regular pattern. This rather simple 1889 building, with its prominent corner entrance punctuated by the 1902 addition of a Neoclassical portico and Queen Anne turret with conical roof, anchors the Erath County Courthouse square in Stephenville.

#### *South Belknap (East) Façade*

This façade, facing South Belknap Street and the Erath County Courthouse, was originally constructed in a much simpler design than currently exists. At that time, the building's main feature was an angled wall at the corner of South Belknap and College Streets with arched stone entrance with a pair of doors at the first floor, paired windows at the second floor and limestone pediment at the roof. Unfortunately no historic photographs of the building as originally designed and constructed exist. A pen sketch of this original design was used on the bank's letterhead and in newspaper ads for the bank; a surviving written agreement (with this letterhead sketch)

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from 1894 and ads in the Stephenville Empire newspaper featuring this sketch, starting with the September 12, 1890 issue, are the only records of this original design found to date (see Figures 2 and 2A, page 32). This stone arch at the first floor remains in place and the pair of wood doors is similar to the original doors, but the arched transom above is now clear glass instead of the original multi-colored glass fixed transom window. The north side of this façade (facing South Belknap Street) has an arched storefront at the first floor; this storefront was divided into three windows by cast iron columns – the bottom portion of each window was a fixed glass pane, while the upper portions were multi-colored panes of glass (blue, red, orange and green). At the second floor of this north side there are three one-over-one double-hung windows, recessed into the exterior wall; the original windows were removed in the early 1990s and replaced with one-over-one wood windows that match the original size and configuration.

At the corners of the building, hanging buttresses with corbels and finials are composed of rounded pieces of carved limestone and provide decoration at these corners. The stone ‘cornice’ is comprised of smaller, rusticated limestone blocks in alternating pattern below two courses of horizontal stone, which forms a cap to the wall.

The angled entrance portion of the building was rebuilt following its destruction in the 1897 fire, with construction completed in 1902. The stone arched entrance was repaired, and an impressive limestone entrance portico protruding from the building face was added in front of these doors. This 1902 entrance portico is Neoclassical in style and includes pedestals of smooth limestone, new concrete steps, and two pairs of blue marble columns with fluted stone bases that sit on the stone pedestals and support the portico structure above. A limestone pediment with carved scrolls is supported by an entablature with the name FIRST NATIONAL BANK carved in stone above. The cornice behind includes a carved stone cap with egg-and-dart molding; two stone urns sat at each corner of the cornice, but only one remains.

These 1902 modifications also include the replacement of the original pair of one-over-one windows and angled masonry wall at the second floor and construction of a rounded turret with a large, rounded window. The curved center windows are a pair of wood, three-lite casement windows, while the side windows are one-over-one double-hung wood windows. This turret is clad in pressed metal that extends from these curved windows to the bottom of the conical roof above. The metal cladding includes trim around the round wood window above the curved windows, decorative swags and metal letters for the date ‘1889’; this metal cladding is an off-white color with window trim and date painted red. At the top of the turret is a steep, conical shaped roof of pressed copper shingles. These are layered around the roof and overlap; these copper shingles are green (copper patina) and are in fair to good condition.

This change to the building is a combination of two styles, Neoclassical entrance portico and Queen Anne turret with copper conical roof, added to an existing Romanesque building. James Riely Gordon is not thought to be the architect of these 1902 modifications as such a mix of styles is not typical (or known) of his work. At the time of this modification his work consisted of large projects. Records of Gordon’s work during the years of this alteration do not include this project nor is there any reference of this.<sup>2</sup> As this newer entrance porch is

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<sup>2</sup> Research at Gordon’s’ archives at the Alexander Architectural Archive, University of Texas, in March 2011 by Michele Dunkerley, building owner.

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Neoclassical, one questions if the bank desired a more formal, impressive entry to convey financial security for the bank. These exterior changes and related interior changes, completed in 1902, remain in place today.

*West College (South) Façade*

This façade, facing West College Street, is longer (85' in length) and is constructed of the same elements as the east façade – light grey limestone exterior walls with a rusticated finish, stone cornice, water course, sills, lintels, rectangular one-over-one replacement wood windows (seven on the first floor and ten on the second floor), hanging buttresses and finials at the corners of the building. The building's 1902 stone entrance is visible at the right side of this façade; this is identical to the view of this at the south façade (entrance porch portico, turret and conical roof).

Metal vents along the base of the building provide ventilation for the crawl space; these are located just above the sidewalk. At the first floor of this façade there are nine equally-spaced openings; the first and third opening from the west have arched tops and house entrances into the building, one serving the stair to the second floor and the other serving the rear office and first floor lease space; the remaining seven openings house c. early 1990s replacement two-over-two wood windows. While the two door openings and door frames are original, the doors appear to be newer. Concrete steps, located in the public right-of-way, are present at each door. At the second floor there are ten equal openings, nine of which are equally spaced and aligned with the first floor windows, while the easternmost opening is slightly further apart than the rest; these openings house c. early 1990's replacement two-over-two wood windows. This façade has merlons – larger pieces of carved limestone that project up from the parapet walls as if they were buttresses, but serve no functional purpose and are merely ornamental.

*West Façade*

This narrow façade adjoins an adjacent one-story building that faces College Street, and only the second story exterior of the First National Bank building is visible. This façade is constructed of some of the same elements as the east façade – light grey limestone exterior walls, sills, lintels and rectangular two-over-two replacement wood windows, but is missing some of the finer detailing such as the stone cornice, hanging buttresses and finials at the corners of the building.

Two early 1990s replacement wood two-over-two double-hung windows are located at the second floor, at the southeast corner office and the stair, and both overlook the roof of the adjacent building. The roof drains into a conductor head and downspout which runs down the face of the building then transfers to the south facade and continues to the sidewalk.

*North Façade*

This façade adjoins an adjacent one-story building that faces South Belknap Street, and only the second story exterior of the First National Bank building is visible. Although the façade is constructed of light grey limestone, the exposed exterior wall and merlon surfaces have been clad over with a waterproof cementitious coating. There are no windows on this elevation.

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## *Roof*

The roof slopes to the west and is drained by one conductor head and downspout at the west façade. The roof structure is comprised of wood trusses spaced at 24" on center which vary in height from approximately 4'-3" at the east wall (the high end) to 1'-3" at the west wall (the low end); these trusses bear on continuous ledges at the north and south masonry walls. The roof decking is ½" wood with two layers of built up roofing, overlaid with a rolled roofing that has been sprayed with reflective, silver coating; this roofing extends up to the inside face of the parapet walls. The 2014-2015 renovation, in progress, added an elastomeric coating system over the existing built up roof.

Stone parapet walls are capped with two horizontal stone courses, and stone merlons extend above. The steep, conical roof installed in 1902 is located at the southeast corner of the roof and is clad in pressed copper shingles. These are layered around the roof and overlap; these copper shingles have a green patina and are in fair to good condition. The bottom row of copper shingles has scalloped edges which define the bottom of the roof.

## **Building Interior**

### *Interior Floor Plan and Finishes*

The First National Bank's floor plan was quite simple when the building was originally constructed in 1889. The first floor contained 4 rooms – the large banking space, a vault at the northwest corner of the banking space, a back office (used by the bank president) and the rear room which served as a lobby to the stair leading to the second floor. The second floor plan was dominated by a long corridor that extended from this stair to the east corner office. There were five offices located along the south wall, with double doors, all in alignment, connecting all adjacent offices. A second, narrow corridor leads to a toilet; it is not certain if this corridor and toilet were original or early modifications as the finishes appear to be historic.

The interior floor plan of the first and second floor reflect few modifications since 1889: the stair within the banking space was added – possibly in the 1930s or 1940s, and a few interior partitions were added in the early 1990s to create a new office and 2 small toilets at the first floor. At the second floor, the toilet may have been a modification and later improved, and a small mechanical closet was added in an office in the early 1990s rehabilitation.

Finishes in First National Bank building date from three distinct periods: the original finishes from 1889, changes to the first floor finishes in the late 1890s or early 1900s, and changes associated with the 1990s rehabilitation. A description of each era follows:

### *Original Interior Finishes - 1889*

First floor: The original finishes on the first floor included long leaf pine floors and plaster finish at the interior face of exterior walls and at interior partitions (over wood lath on wood studs) with a decorative plaster frieze at the top of these 16' high interior walls. Much of the wood flooring remains, although large areas in the banking space flooring have been repaired or replaced. The plaster wall finishes remain but were re-plastered in the early

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1990s with a rougher cement plaster finish. A decorative plaster frieze with decorative painting and ornamental plaster relief at the top of the plaster wall (approximately 20" to 24" in height) remains in a few areas. This frieze was covered up with the installation of acoustic lay-in ceilings at the rear office areas, and in the banking space the top of this frieze was damaged by the installation of the pressed metal cove. On the north wall in the banking area the frieze has been painted white and blends in with the plaster wall below. Some areas of this frieze were destroyed when the electrical and mechanical system were installed in the early 1990s. Unfortunately, in most areas this frieze is very deteriorated and crumbles at the touch.

The ceilings were originally wood beadboard, some areas of which remain intact. In the large banking space the beadboard had been covered by pressed metal ceilings, over which acoustic ceilings were added later. These pressed metal ceilings and acoustical ceilings have been removed in the 2015 renovation, and the beadboard ceilings are being restored.

Most of the original baseboards, door frames and plinths, transoms and doors remain intact, although much of the window trim was removed and replaced in the early 1990s.

Second floor: The original finishes at the second floor included long leaf pine floors and plaster finish at the interior face of exterior walls; these plaster walls were re-plastered in the early 1990s with a rougher cement plaster finish. The interior partitions in the office spaces are finished with the original horizontal bead board, painted; the original ornate baseboards, plinths and door frames remain in place. The finishes at the corridor partitions are original vertical bead board wainscoting and chair rail, with horizontal bead board extending to the 12' ceiling.

Most of the interior door frames, plinths and doors are original. However, the window frames were removed and replaced in the early 1990s with new frames that do not match the original.

*Interior modifications in late 1890s or early 1900s*

There were two separate modifications made to the building's interior in this time frame. One change was related to the addition of the exterior entrance portico in 1902, with the corresponding interior changes to the first floor front door and transom above as well as change in floor plan at the second floor with the addition of the turret.

The other change during this time frame was the addition of the pressed metal ceiling in the banking space. As the historic photograph illustrated in Figure 8 shows (see page 35), this pressed metal ceiling was installed early in the bank's history as it's cove was placed over the ornamental plaster frieze at the perimeter walls of the banking space; where the pressed metal ceiling has been removed, the ornamental plaster frieze remains, although damaged in some areas and painted to match the wall on the north wall. It is possible that this change was done in 1902 in conjunction with the exterior entrance work, in an effort to upgrade the buildings appearance.

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*Interior modifications made following the Bank vacating the building - 1925 through the 1940s*

After First National Bank vacated the building in 1925, several changes were made to accommodate other tenants - including the removal of the bank vault, modifications to the building's arched storefront window to accommodate a door, and the addition of the interior stair near this new door. The dates of these changes are not known.

*Interior modifications - early 1990s through 2014*

This rehabilitation of the building included a number of changes to the building to protect and repair historic finishes, upgrade or provide current systems, provide restrooms for the occupants and new finishes in selected areas. A mechanical system was added and the electrical system was upgraded. Two air-handling units were provided above a new acoustic lay-in ceiling in offices in the first floor; mechanical ductwork was installed above this ceiling to serve the back rooms of the first floor. Unfortunately, areas of the original plaster frieze were destroyed to accommodate ductwork or other construction activities. These air handling units, ductwork and acoustic lay-in ceiling were removed in the 2015 renovation.

In the banking space, dropped furr-downs were created to accommodate the mechanical ducts; these were finished in beadboard. To accommodate these fur-downs, the historic pressed metal ceilings were removed and re-installed in the remaining ceiling space between the furr-down and the exterior walls. Remnants of these removed pressed metal ceilings are stored in the space above the second floor ceiling. The remaining pressed metal ceilings have been removed as part of the 2015 renovation.

On the first floor, a new office and two new restrooms were created in the rear of the banking space. Changes to the second floor were minimal – a small mechanical room was constructed in one office to accommodate two new air-handling units to serve this floor; the ductwork for the mechanical system serving this floor were located in the space above the ceiling. The upstairs restroom was upgraded at this time.

In addition, the historic wood windows throughout the building were removed and replaced with new wood windows that matched the size and design of the original windows. The historic wood trim at the windows was also removed and replaced with trim that does not match the historic.

*Interior modifications - 2014-2015 Rehabilitation*

The 2014-2015 rehabilitation – in progress, to be completed mid 2015 – seeks to restore much of the original fabric that remains in the building. The wood floors are being refinished throughout the building. The non-historic cementitious plaster is being removed and the historic plaster repaired throughout the building. A four foot area of the historic decorative plaster frieze on the south wall will be conserved, while on the west wall and remaining portion of the south wall the frieze will be replicated to match the historic frieze. The pressed metal ceilings have been removed to expose what remains of the original wood beadboard ceilings, and new wood beadboard ceiling to match is being added to complete the space. The back areas of the first floor are being redesigned to accommodate an accessible restroom, an office and a janitor closet. The second floor will incur no modifications as part of this rehabilitation, only repair and refinish of the existing materials and finishes.

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### **Romanesque Architectural Style**

The Romanesque architectural style became popular in the United States in the mid to late 19th century, mainly for public and commercial buildings, and made its way into residential architecture in the later decades of the 19th century. The style draws inspiration from the European Romanesque style, but it is less true to historical accuracy and seeks to simplify and reinterpret its elements. The earliest examples of Romanesque architecture in the United States also borrowed from European pre-Gothic architecture, using round arches and corbels, battlemented cornices, irregular outlines and smooth faced ashlar patterned masonry walls. This early version of the style is known as Romanesque Revival. As the style evolved, particularly under the influence of architect Henry Hobson Richardson, it departed from its European influences and became a uniquely American architectural style. This style is now known as Richardsonian Romanesque. The characteristic features of this style are wide stone arches over entrances, windows, and porches, often supported by oversized and squatty columns or piers integral to the masonry; load bearing masonry exterior walls with rusticated finish in ashlar pattern; deeply recessed doors and windows, often further emphasized by contrasting color or texture of the stone; windows commonly having one pane of glass per sash; towers, most commonly round with conical roofs, although square towers can also be found. Heaviness and horizontality replaced smoothness and verticality. This style became very popular especially for churches and courthouses, although it also seen in other types of construction such as university buildings, train depots, commercial buildings and residential architecture.

### **Queen Anne Architectural Style**

The Queen Anne architectural style was popular in the United States around 1880-1900. Its preponderance was almost exclusive to residential architecture, although occasionally some examples of commercial Queen Anne architecture are found. This style is generally characterized by such massing as asymmetrical facades, L-shaped porches, roofs of irregular shapes with steep pitches and a dominant front gable, and corner turrets, usually of round or polygonal shape. Other characteristic features of the Queen Anne style are the various forms of detailing to denote texture, such as patterned wood shingles often of various colors, wood spindlework in the gable, and texture in the masonry wall and chimney achieved with decorative patterns of bricks. Some elements, such as the patterned masonry and half-timbering, are borrowed from late Medieval architecture in England, while others, such as the wood spindlework, originated in the United States.

### **Neoclassical Architectural Style**

The Neoclassical architectural style was popular in the United States during the first half of the 20th century, after a resurgence of the classical models in architecture brought on by the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The Neoclassical architectural style is based on Greek and Roman architectural elements, and thus closely resembles the earlier Classical Revival and Greek Revival architectural styles in the United States. The Neoclassical architectural style is characterized by symmetry of the facade, with centered entry portico with pediment supported by classical columns, typically with Ionic or Corinthian capital, and symmetrically placed windows. Cornices typically have dentils or modillions, and a wide frieze underneath. Door surrounds are typically ornate and may borrow elements from earlier classical styles such as Greek Revival, Adam or Georgian. Windows are typically rectangular but also popular with this style are bay windows, transom windows or arched windows, all of which differentiate the Neoclassical from earlier classical styles.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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## **Integrity**

The First National Bank Building has retained a high degree of its original integrity. The building remains in its original location, in the same urban setting on the courthouse square of Stephenville, and surrounded largely by the same buildings as when it was built. The feeling of the property has not changed. The building exterior remains nearly intact, with its materials, design features and workmanship largely unaltered - with the exception of the exterior windows which were replaced in an early 1990s renovation, and the cast iron storefront which was modified to create a door on the north side of the storefront. The building has also retained its association, as the function of the building has remained as commerce over the years.

In summary, the First National Bank Buildings retains all seven aspects of its original integrity - setting, location, association, design, workmanship, materials and feeling.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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## Statement of Significance

The First National Bank Building is one of the oldest remaining buildings in Stephenville's downtown, and housed the town's first bank - the First National Bank of Stephenville.<sup>3</sup> The First National Bank Building has been a prominent presence in downtown Stephenville over the past 125 years, serving the community as a bank for its first 36 years of existence, and continuing to serve various other community needs since - as law office, beauty salon, insurance agency, telephone company, chiropractor office, real estate agency, floral shop, boot and saddle shop and art gallery. With its location facing the Erath County Courthouse and its prominent corner entrance emphasized by the protruding portico and tower with conical roof, the First National Bank Building has been the second most prominent building on the courthouse square for the last one and a quarter centuries. It is also the earliest of three buildings in Stephenville's downtown designed by renowned San Antonio architect James Riely Gordon; his other two Stephenville buildings are the Erath County National Bank (Crow Opera House) and the Erath County Courthouse. The First National Bank Building is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. Its period of significance spans from 1889, the year of its construction and incorporation of the bank, to 1902 to encompass the period in which architecturally significant alterations were undertaken. The First National Bank Building is one of the earliest buildings designed by renowned architect James Riely Gordon, and represents the beginning stage of his prolific architectural career. He went on to achieve prominence as an architect in state of Texas as well as in New York City and the east coast, recognized mainly for his courthouse designs, most of which in the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style - a style of which the First National Bank Building is also an early example.

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## History of the First National Bank Building

The First National Bank Building is one of the oldest remaining buildings in Stephenville's downtown and housed the town's first bank - the First National Bank of Stephenville. Located at the southwest corner of South Belknap Street and West College Street, this two-story light grey limestone building was designed by architect James Riely Gordon of Gordon and Laub Architects of San Antonio, and is thought to have been completed in 1889<sup>4</sup> - the same year the bank was founded. This date is featured on the round metal turret at the second floor although this turret was a later addition to the building in 1902. This 1889 date of construction is supported by 1889 newspaper articles and also the 1891 Sanborn map (issued April 1891) which shows the completed First National Bank building and also the Erath County National Bank (also designed by J. Riely Gordon and known as the Crow Opera House) in place.<sup>5</sup> The Erath County National Bank opened the same year as the First National Bank;<sup>6</sup> however the building was built within the year of the First National Bank, was located a block away facing the Courthouse Square, and was built of the same light grey limestone.

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<sup>3</sup> Organized in June 1889 (*Fort Worth Daily Gazette*, July 22, 1889), the bank first opened for business in August 1889, and was housed temporarily on the south side of the courthouse square while construction on the First National Bank Building was being finished (*Fort Worth Daily Gazette*, August 25, 1889).

<sup>4</sup> *First National Bank Building*, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark report, Stephenville, Texas, 1994. On file at the Texas Historical Commission.

<sup>5</sup> *Crow Opera House*, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark report, Stephenville, Texas. On file at the Texas Historical Commission.

<sup>6</sup> *The Stephenville Empire*, September 14, 1889.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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The First National Bank in Stephenville was organized in 1889 by attorney C. J. Shapard of Stephenville.<sup>7</sup> At that time, the Fort Worth and Rio Grande railroad had plans to come to Stephenville and the town anticipated becoming the commercial and banking center of the region's agricultural market. C.J. Shapard was the bank's first president, with McD. Reil as Vice President and Merchant, H.M. McKnight as Cashier, J.H. Cage and F.A. Schnabel as Merchants, according to *The Stephenville Empire*, November 16, 1889. By 1894, the bank's letterhead shows that J.H. Cage had become Vice President and John S. Hyatt Cashier. Later Otho Houston from Granbury succeeded C.J. Shapard as President.<sup>8</sup> As anticipated, the bank prospered along with the town.

The First National Bank Building is located across South Belknap Street from the Erath County's courthouse square; shortly after the First National Bank building was constructed, the county razed the existing (1877) small, stone courthouse and a new three-story courthouse was constructed. This new courthouse was also designed by J. Riely Gordon, its cornerstone was laid on December 3, 1891, and it was completed in late 1892 or early 1893. This 3-story Romanesque style courthouse was constructed of white limestone (which matched the stone of First National Bank and Erath County National Bank) but was accented with red Pecos sandstone.

In 1897 a fire destroyed the front corner of the First National Bank Building, requiring this portion of the building to be re-built. The damaged simple, stone arched entrance which faced the corner of South Belknap and West College streets was replaced with a grander stone entrance portico with paired marble columns at each side and pediment above, front doors, balcony and turret at the second floor and a conical shaped roof; these new elements of the building were designed in a Neoclassical (entry portico) and Queen Anne style (turret and conical roof). These exterior changes and related interior changes were completed by 1902 and remain in place today. These exterior modifications, employing the architectural styles that were most popular at the time, signify the importance of the First National Bank Building on the courthouse square, anchoring the courthouse.

First National Bank remained in this building until 1925 when it merged with the Farmers National Bank, due to depressed oil and cotton prices. The merged bank retained Farmers National Bank's name and moved into their building, which was located on the other side of the courthouse square. The bank screen and bank furnishings were removed; portions of this teller screen remain in private hands in Stephenville.

A variety of tenants then occupied the building including Thomas B. King, a member of John Tarleton College and author (1890s); the Stephenville Telephone Exchange and R. L. Thompson, an attorney who practiced law in a second floor office for over sixty years (c. 1909 – 1969). The large bank vault was subsequently removed, and the arched window within the historic cast iron storefront was modified to accept an exterior door, which led to new interior staircase to the second floor (providing a second exit for occupants of the second floor). This stair appears to have been originally open to the second floor but was later enclosed by the addition of a door at an intermediate landing.

By the early 1990s the building was vacant and in disrepair; it was purchased in 1993 by Brad and Nancy Allen of Stephenville and rehabilitated the following year. While this rehabilitation stabilized and repaired many

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<sup>7</sup> *First National Bank Building*, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark report, Stephenville, Texas 1994. On file at the Texas Historical Commission.

<sup>8</sup> *First National Bank Building*, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark report, Stephenville, Texas 1994. On file at the Texas Historical Commission.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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components of the building, the historic wood windows were removed and replaced with new wood windows in the existing openings. Other work included adding two toilets, repairing or replacing interior plaster, removal of the historic exterior wood doors at College Street entries, and installing a new mechanical system – which was accommodated in a new furred space in the ceiling of what had been the banking space. Large areas of the original long leaf pine floors at the first floor were removed (probably for access to the limited crawl space) and either reinstalled or replaced. Changes were also made to the historic metal ceiling. Fortunately, the cast iron storefront with its large windows with colored glass in the transom remains intact.

In 2008 the bank building was purchased by Red Fences LLC, owned by Michele Dunkerley. Red Fences LLC also purchased another building on Stephenville's courthouse square, a historic saloon that now houses Greer's Restaurant, which opened in 2014. Michele Dunkerley has been active in Stephenville's downtown revitalization, and with these two buildings has made a significant contribution to its revitalization.

### **James Riely Gordon, Architect**

Born in Winchester, Virginia on August 2, 1863<sup>9</sup> to John Muir and Sarah Virginia Riely Gordon, the family moved to San Antonio, Texas in 1874. His father, a civil engineer who worked for the railroads, taught J. Riely some engineering.<sup>10, 11</sup> In 1879 and 1880, Gordon worked for the Civil Engineering Corps of the International and Great Northern Railway and learned applied engineering.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Early Architectural Career: 1882 – 1896***

In 1882 he began an apprenticeship with the architectural office of W. K. Dodson in San Antonio.<sup>13</sup> The following year he moved to Washington DC to work for the Architect of the Treasurer, United States Treasury.<sup>14</sup> He returned to San Antonio in 1887 and was supervising architect for the construction of San Antonio's new Post Office and Federal Building (a massive Romanesque building on Alamo Plaza); this building was completed in 1889 and it is thought that Gordon began his architectural practice during this time. The First National Bank Building in Stephenville was one of Gordon's earliest commissions. Gordon married Mary Lamar Sprigg of Virginia in 1889; James and Mary had one daughter, Lucy Gordon, in 1899.

In 1890 Gordon established a partnership with D. E. Laub of San Antonio; this partnership lasted for a year, at which time Gordon resumed his individual practice. During the early 1890s Gordon designed two other buildings in Stephenville - the Erath County National Bank (now known as the Crow Opera House) and the Romanesque Erath County Courthouse. Other commissions followed - the Staake Brothers Building (1890); Bexar County Courthouse (1892), Waco Natatorium (1892), Cotton Palace, Waco (1894), Victoria County Courthouse (1894), Ellis County Courthouse (1896), St. Paul's Sanitarium, Dallas (1896; demolished 1968) and the Linz Brothers Building, Dallas (1898). He won several major commissions outside Texas, including the Texas Pavilion at the Chicago's World Fair (1893) and the Arizona Territorial Capital, in Phoenix, Arizona (1900).

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<sup>9</sup> From [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com), James Riely Gordon.

<sup>10</sup> University of Texas, Alexander Archive Inventory of James Riely Gordon Drawings and Papers, 1890-1937.

<sup>11</sup> Gordon, James Riely, The Handbook of Texas Online, Glenn Patton, accessed May 18, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Gordon, James Riely, The Handbook of Texas Online, Glenn Patton, accessed May 18, 2010.

<sup>13</sup> San Antonio Architecture, page 131.

<sup>14</sup> San Antonio Architecture, page 131.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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Gordon became well known for his designs of county courthouses during the early years of his career, and would continue to excel in this building type for the remainder of his career. The proliferation of courthouses in Texas is largely due to the passage of ‘Texas Courthouse Law’ by the Texas Legislature in 1881. This legislation allowed Texas counties to sell bonds for new courthouses and soon resulted in the construction of numerous county courthouses across the state.<sup>15</sup> Most of these newer courthouses were Italianate or Second Empire styles – a style used by Gordon in his early work. However by the early 1890s, Gordon was designing primarily in the Romanesque style – with buildings constructed of massive load bearing stone walls, incorporating a Greek cross plan with a central core which accommodated a staircase and vertical tower above and more importantly, provided a natural ventilation system. These large, impressive courthouses were greatly admired by county governments and Gordon designed at least 20 courthouses in Texas.

***Architectural Career: 1896 – 1902***

By 1896 Gordon had set up an auxiliary office in Dallas; he and H. A. Overbeck appeared to have shared offices on an intermittent basis as some years the Dallas Directory had an entry for ‘Gordon and Overbeck’ while other years contained separate entries for the two men as well as entries for ‘Gordon and Overbeck’. During these years, notices appeared in the Dallas Morning News for solicitation of bids from contractors for many of Gordon’s projects including the Infirmary at Southwestern Insane Asylum, San Antonio; Comal County Courthouse, Harrison County Courthouse, Rapides Parish Courthouse in Alexandria, Louisiana (1902, with Burton and Frankel, New Orleans), St. Paul Sanatorium for Sisters of Mercy in Dallas (1896), St. Patrick’s Church, Dallas (1897), Texas Moline Plow Company (1902), as well as several 2-story houses.

While Gordon retained his residence in San Antonio during 1896 – 1900 and traveled to Dallas for varying amounts of time, he moved his office to Dallas sometime in 1900 and resided at 209 Canton Street<sup>16</sup> (with H. Overbeck). By 1901 he had moved to 107 Cadiz<sup>17</sup> – a two story house located south of downtown Dallas; his neighbors included Otto Lang (with Lang and Witchell architects), E. M. Kahn (large retail store owner) and John S. Wendelken (manger of a major farm implement business) – all well known businessmen in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At this time, this was a middle class neighborhood and within walking distance of downtown Dallas where he officed at 259 Main Street (southwest corner of Main and Field Street). Although Gordon was married, there are no records that indicate that his wife relocated with him to Dallas; she appears to have remained in San Antonio.

In September 1902 Gordon moved to New York City; an announcement appeared in the Dallas Morning News that ‘*our elegant office for rent, removing headquarters to 33 Waverly Place, New York. J. Riely Gordon Co., Main and Field*’.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> A Guide to San Antonio Architecture, pg 7.

<sup>16</sup> John F. Worley’s Dallas Directory, 1900; Pub: John F. Worley & Co., Dallas, Texas

<sup>17</sup> John F. Worley’s Dallas Directory, 1901, 1902; Pub: John F. Worley & Co., Dallas, Texas

<sup>18</sup> Dallas Morning News, September 4, 5 & 8, 1902.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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### ***Architectural Career: 1902 – 1937***

Gordon formed a partnership with Alfred Zucker upon his arrival in New York City; this partnership lasted for only two years after which Gordon then formed his own firm in 1907. His firm became a prominent architectural firm in New York, and existed until his death in 1937. Projects from his New York practice include the Montana Capital, Helena, Montana, Borgfeldt Building in New York City, Metropolitan Bank in Washington DC, and the Gramercy Park Apartments in New York. His courthouses included Hackensack, New Jersey, Somerville, New Jersey, Courtland, New York and Cambria, Pennsylvania. His obituary published in the New York Herald Tribune<sup>19</sup> noted that he designed 69 courthouses in his career.

While in New York, Gordon was a leader in improving the professionalism of his profession. He served 13 terms as President of the New York Society of Architects<sup>20</sup> and was made ‘Honorary president of the New York Society of Architects’; he also served as President of the New York State Council of Registered Architects, and served on numerous public boards and commissions.

Gordon passed away in 1937, at his home in Pelham Heights in New York, following a brief illness.<sup>21</sup>

### **Architectural Significance**

The First National Bank Building is one of the earliest works of architect James Riely Gordon and incorporates some elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque, a style he used prolifically and masterfully in his courthouse designs, prompting architectural historian Jay C. Henry to refer to Gordon as “the most sensitive and successful interpreter of the Richardsonian in Texas.”<sup>22</sup> Gordon’s first experience working in this style was while he supervised the construction of the Romanesque Revival U.S. Courthouse and Post Office in San Antonio from 1886-1889, an opportunity which allowed him to travel to the east coast on multiple occasions to study other examples. These early years represent an important period in the development of Gordon’s Richardsonian vocabulary. In the last decade of the nineteenth century, Gordon designed fourteen Texas county courthouses in the Romanesque Revival style. The First National Bank is a rare example of a commercial building designed by Gordon in Texas, and is significant for its association with this master architect during a formative period in his career. Though the building’s entrance no longer reflects his original design, the underlying character of his design is still evident.

The building is also significant because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of this type and period of commercial architecture. It is an excellent local example of the commercial block buildings constructed throughout small American towns in the late Victorian period when tastes trended towards a more exuberant stylistic treatment for buildings that were otherwise quite basic in form. Banks in particular tried to distinguish themselves from other commercial buildings on the public square, and the ways in which they did so led them to share some similar characteristics. Willard B. Robinson, noted scholar of nineteenth century architecture in Texas, observed that bankers were “among the builders seeking prominence and distinction of architectural

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<sup>19</sup> New York Herald Tribune, March 17, 1937.

<sup>20</sup> ‘James Riely Gordon’ entry, Wikipedia [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org); accessed March 29, 2010.

<sup>21</sup> New York Herald Tribune, March 17, 1937.

<sup>22</sup> Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993), page 14.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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character” and that they erected buildings that were “usually more substantial in appearance, as if to symbolize permanence and security.”<sup>23</sup> Bankers preferred corner locations so that the building was readily accessible from multiple points; therefore, they utilized corner or chamfered entrances and “were often emphasized with turrets overhead.”<sup>24</sup> Jay C. Henry also found that banks of this era tended to utilize a corner entry “splayed diagonally to the Victorian preference for oblique perspective” and often included a corner oriel “placed above the entrance to further askew the composition to the diagonal prospect.”<sup>25</sup> Located on a prominent corner of the courthouse square, with a corner entry emphasized with both a Classical portico and towering turret, and incorporating decorative stone and pressed metal detailing, cast iron storefront, and colored glass, the First National Bank of Stephenville is highly representative of this type and period of commercial architecture.

Stephenville’s First National Bank Building is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. The period of significance begins in 1889, the date of original construction, and extends through 1902, to encompass the period in which architecturally significant alterations were completed.

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<sup>23</sup> Willard B. Robinson, *Texas Public Buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1974), page 64.

<sup>24</sup> Robinson, 64.

<sup>25</sup> Henry, 113.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Partial list of James Riely Gordon's building in Texas, 1886 - 1902<sup>26</sup>**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Building</i>
1886-1908	Martin County Courthouse in Stanton
1889	First National Bank in Stephenville
1889	US Post Office and Courthouse in San Antonio
1890	Protestant Home for Destitute Children in San Antonio
1890	Staacke Brother Building in San Antonio
1890	Thiele House and Thiele Cottage in San Antonio
1890	Kahn & Stanzel Building in Hallettsville
1891	Stevens Building in San Antonio
1892	Bexar County Courthouse in San Antonio
1892	Erath County Courthouse in Stephenville
1892	Fayette County Courthouse in La Grange
1892	Victoria County Courthouse in Victoria
1894	Gonzales County Courthouse in Gonzales
1894	Karnes County Courthouse in Karnes City
1894	Rosemont House in Waxahachie
1894	Van Zandt County Courthouse in Canton
1895	Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie
1895-1897	Wise County Courthouse in Decatur
1895	Hopkins County Courthouse in Sulphur Springs
1895	Tarrant County Courthouse in Fort Worth
1896-1898	Linz Building in Dallas
1896-1898	St. Paul's Sanitarium in Dallas
1897	Lee County Courthouse in Giddings
1898	Comal County Courthouse in New Braunfels
1898	Galveston County Courthouse in Galveston
1899	Orange County Courthouse in Orange
1900	Callahan County Courthouse in Baird
1900	Harrison County Courthouse (former) in Marshall
1900	McLennan County Courthouse
1900-1902	Carnegie Libraries in San Antonio
1902	Somervell County Courthouse in Glen Rose

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<sup>26</sup> Obtained from buildings listed in Texas Historical Commissions 'Atlas' on THC website.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Map 1** - Stephenville, TX location in the United States (Wikipedia)

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

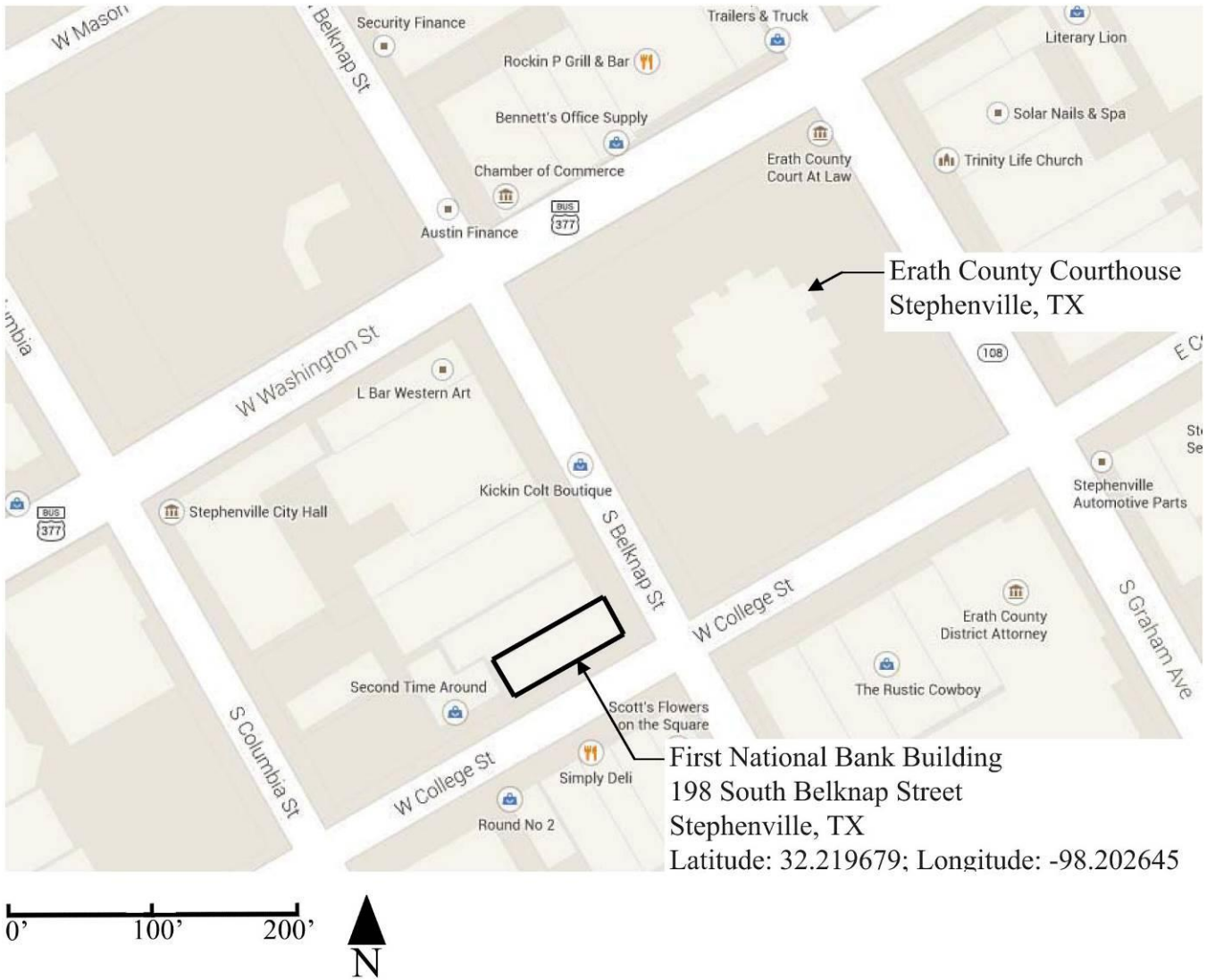


0' 200'



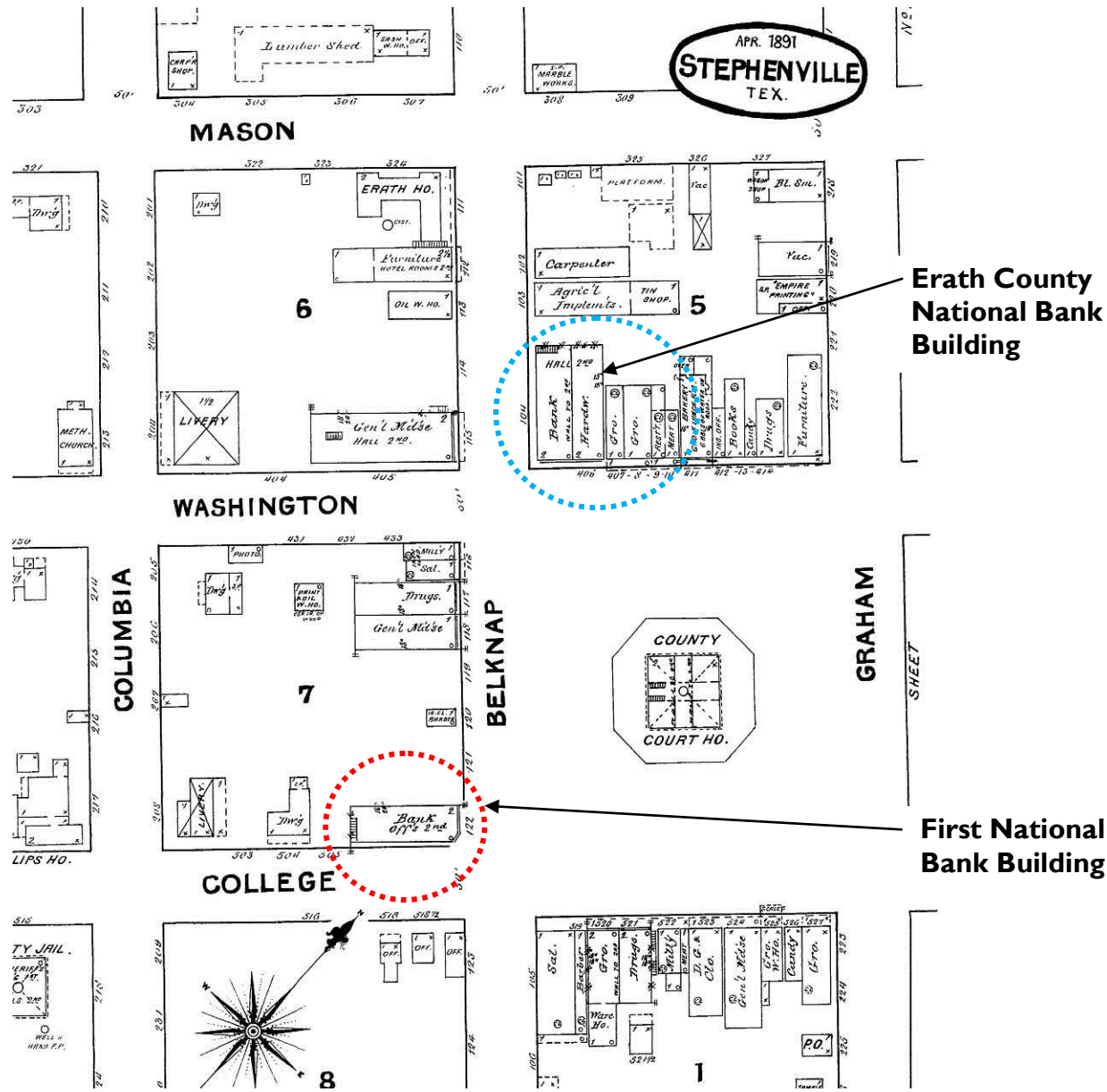
Map 2 - Map of Downtown Stephenville, TX (Google Maps)

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas



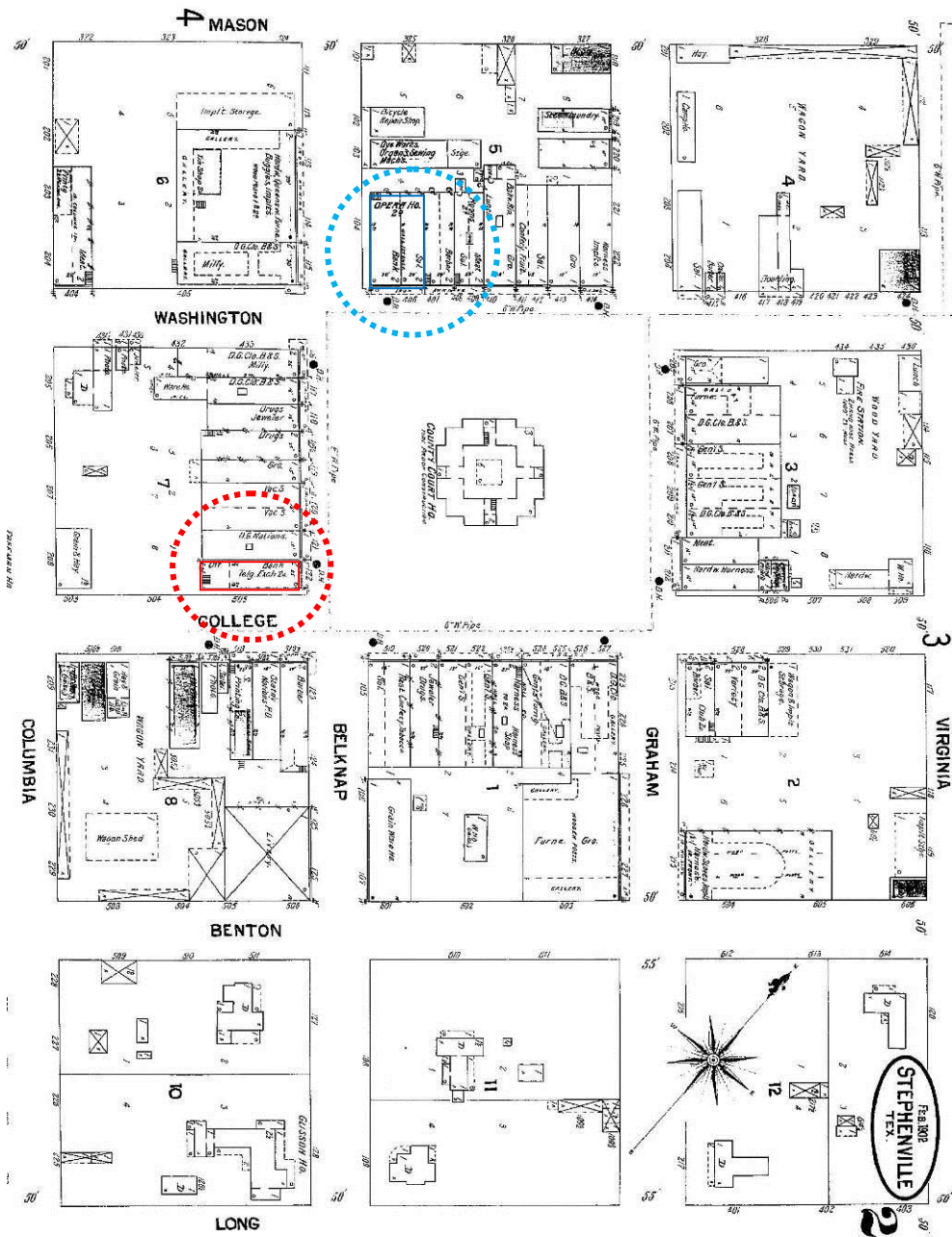
Map 3 - First National Bank Site Plan, 198 South Belknap Street, Stephenville, TX 76401 (Google Maps)

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas



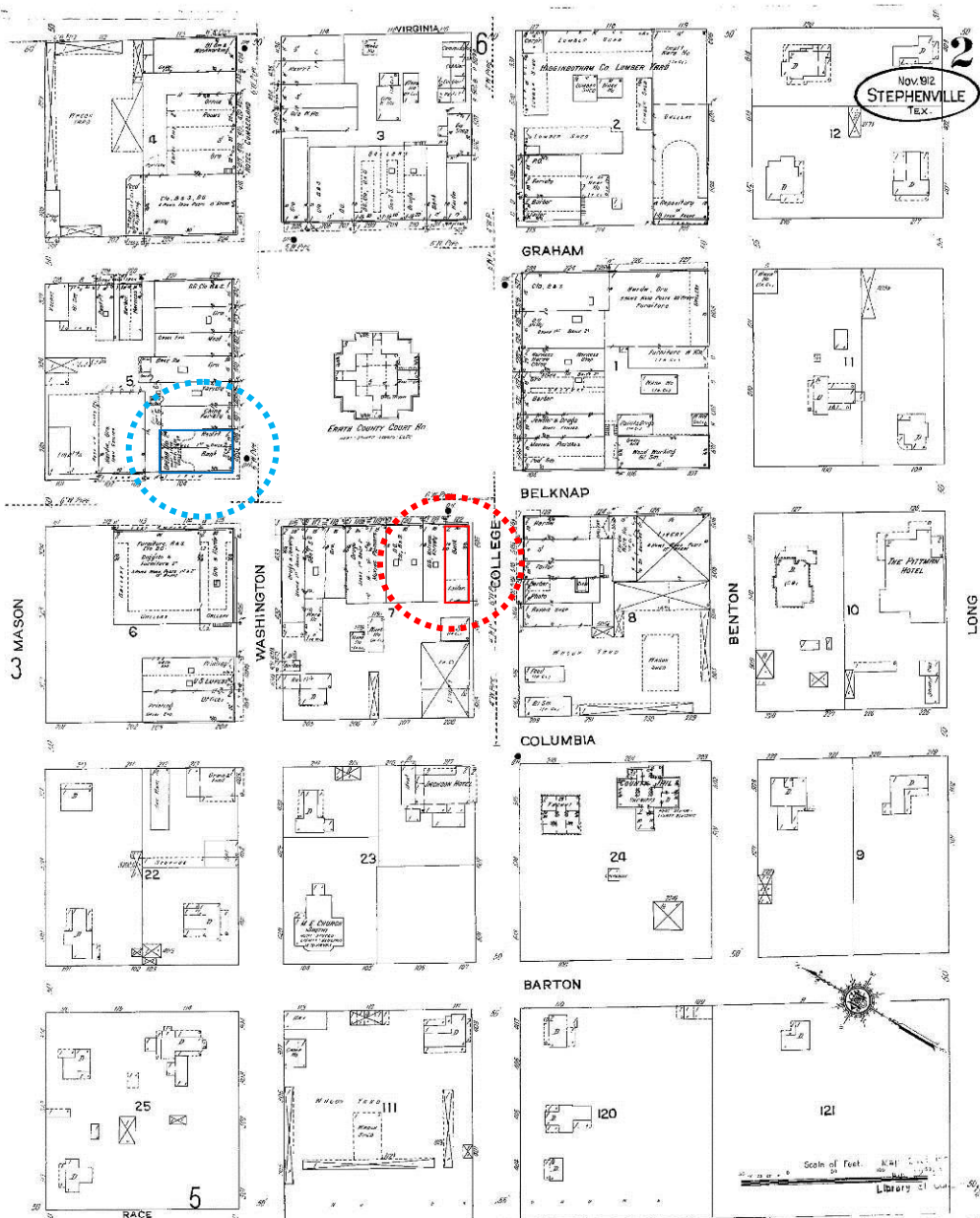
**Map 4** - 1891 Sanborn map of Stephenville, showing the two J. Riely Gordon buildings (First National Bank and Erath County National Bank with 'hall' at its 2<sup>nd</sup> floor), both facing the 1877 Erath County Courthouse on the courthouse square.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas



**Map 5** - 1902 Sanborn map of Stephenville, showing the two J. Gordon Riely buildings (First National Bank and Erath County National Bank), facing the new Erath County Courthouse on the courthouse square, also designed by J. Riely Gordon. Map shows 'bank' and 'office' at first floor and Telephone Exchange at the second floor of the First National Bank building. By this date, the streetscapes surrounding the courthouse square were completed with one or two-story masonry commercial buildings.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas



**Map 6** - 1912 Sanborn map of Stephenville, showing the First National Bank and Erath County National Bank; the latter shows an Opera House at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The First National Bank buildings occupants are the bank and a tailor at the rear office.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Figure 1** - Photograph of James Riely Gordon; assumed to date from the 1890s when he was a prominent architect in San Antonio. From Nancy Allen, Stephenville, Texas

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas



Figure 2 - Copy of First National Bank printed letterhead. This is the only image of the original (pre-fire) appearance of the building entrance and is thought to be a rendering by architect James Riely Gordon.



Figure 2A - Advertisement in the September 12, 1890 issue of the *Stephenville Empire*.


First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Figure 3** - Exterior view of First National Bank Building during reconstruction of corner, following fire; c. 1902. Camera facing northwest

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas



C. J. SHAPARD,  
*President*

J. H. CAGE,  
*Vice Pres.*

JOHN S. HYATT,  
*Cashier*

No. 4095.

# First National Bank

OF STEPHENVILLE.

Stephenville, Texas, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 1894

*note payable on or before 2 years from its date*

This agreement made and entered into by and between R. J. Hurley and Theo Bauer. The said Hurley sells to said Bauer west half of Lot 3 Block 5 in Stephenville Texas on north side of public square for \$1000. Cash and note for four hundred dollars with 10% <sup>interest</sup> payable annually from date, the said Hurley to pay all state County and city taxes against said property for 1894. and to make warranty deed signed by himself and wife and acknowledged by them on or before Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1894. The said Hurley and Bauer each placing \$20<sup>00</sup> in hands of John S. Hyatt to bind the trade. The said Bauer to pay the \$1000. Cash and sign said note on or before Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1894.

Figure 4 - Agreement written by First National Bank on October 1, 1894 with image of bank on letterhead.

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Figure 5** - Exterior view of portion of First National Bank Building and adjacent "Racket" Store. Note large arched window is intact, prior to later modification to accommodate door; ca. early 1900s. Camera facing west



**Figure 6** - Exterior view of First National Bank Building. Note telephone pole with multiple lines into Stephenville's telephone exchange which was located at the 2nd floor; ca. 1920s or 1930s. Camera facing northwest

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Figure 7** - Exterior view of First National Bank Building. Note replacement of metal cladding at 2nd floor turret is underway and large arched window at the front facade has been modified to accommodate new door; ca. 1930s. Camera facing northwest



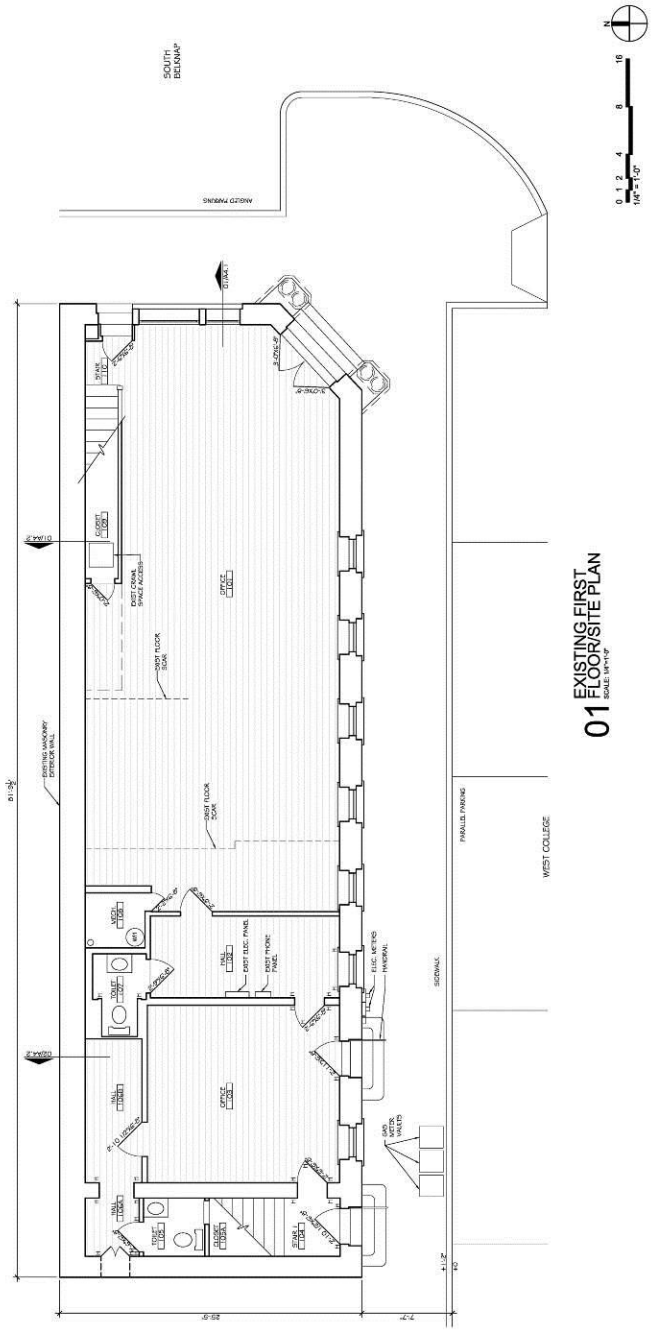
Interior of First National Bank in Stephenville. Photo courtesy Brad and Nancy Allen

**Figure 8** - Interior view of First National Bank; this is the only known historic interior photo; date unknown. Camera facing northwest

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

 <p>Quality Historic Preservation                  2009 Main Street, BLD. 6                  STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS 76401                  PH: 214.877.8118</p>	<p>198 SOUTH BELKNAP ST.                  STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS 76401</p>	<p>DATE: _____                  DRAWN BY: _____                  CHECKED BY: _____                  APPROVED BY: _____</p>	<p>EXISTING                  FIRST FLOOR/                  SITE PLAN</p>	<p>DATE: 10/13/2010</p>
				<p>SCALE: AS SHOWN</p>

NOT FOR REGULATORY APPROVAL, PERMITTING OR CONSTRUCTION



01 EXISTING FIRST FLOOR SITE PLAN

Figure 9 - Existing First Floor/ Site Plan (prior to 2014-2015 rehabilitation)

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

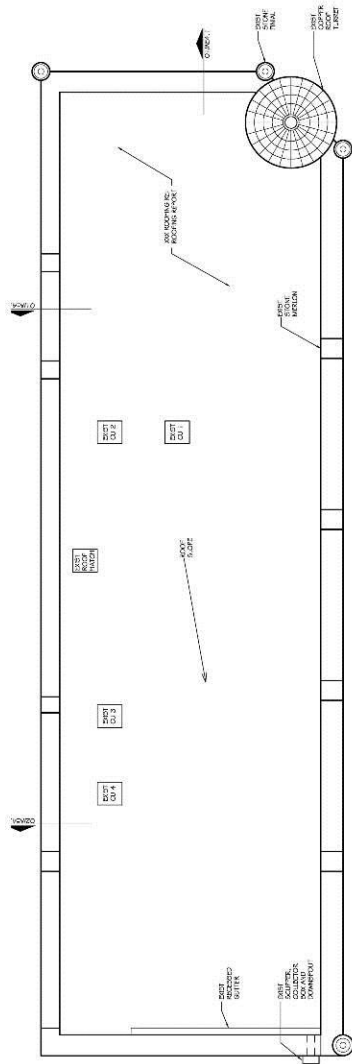
**q:mc**  
 Quality ARCHITECTURE  
 2000 Main Street, Suite 205  
 Stephenville, TX 76401  
 PH: 254.897.5118

FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
 198 SOUTH BELKNAP ST.  
 STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS 76401

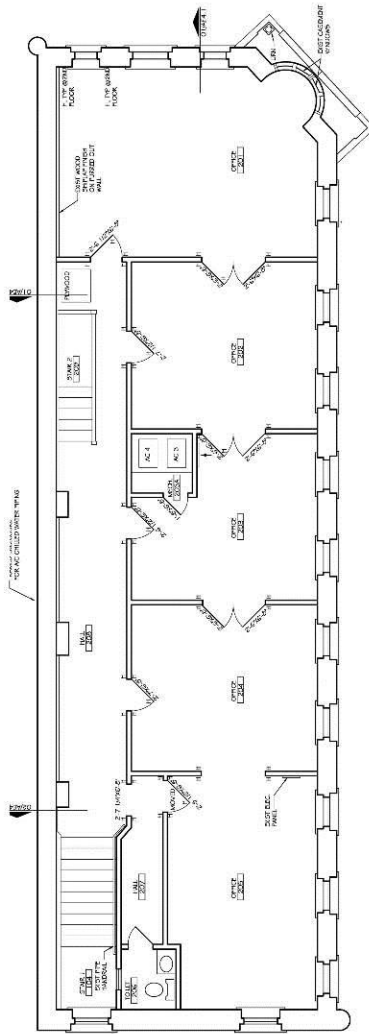
EXISTING SECOND FLOOR & ROOF PLANS

AE1.2

NOT FOR REGULATORY APPROVAL, PERMITTING OR CONSTRUCTION



02 EXISTING ROOF PLAN  
 SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



01 EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
 SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



Figure 10 - Existing Second Floor Plan and Roof Plan (prior to 2014-2015 rehabilitation)



First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

**q:m:b**  
 Quality Architecture & Interiors  
 2008 Main Street, Suite 202  
 Stephenville, TX 76401  
 Phone: 254.877.8118

198 SOUTH BELKNAP ST.  
 STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS 76401

REVISION: DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EXISTING EAST & SOUTHEAST ELEVATIONS  
 10/28/2010 090

**AE3.2**

NOT FOR REGULATORY APPROVAL, PERMITTING OR CONSTRUCTION

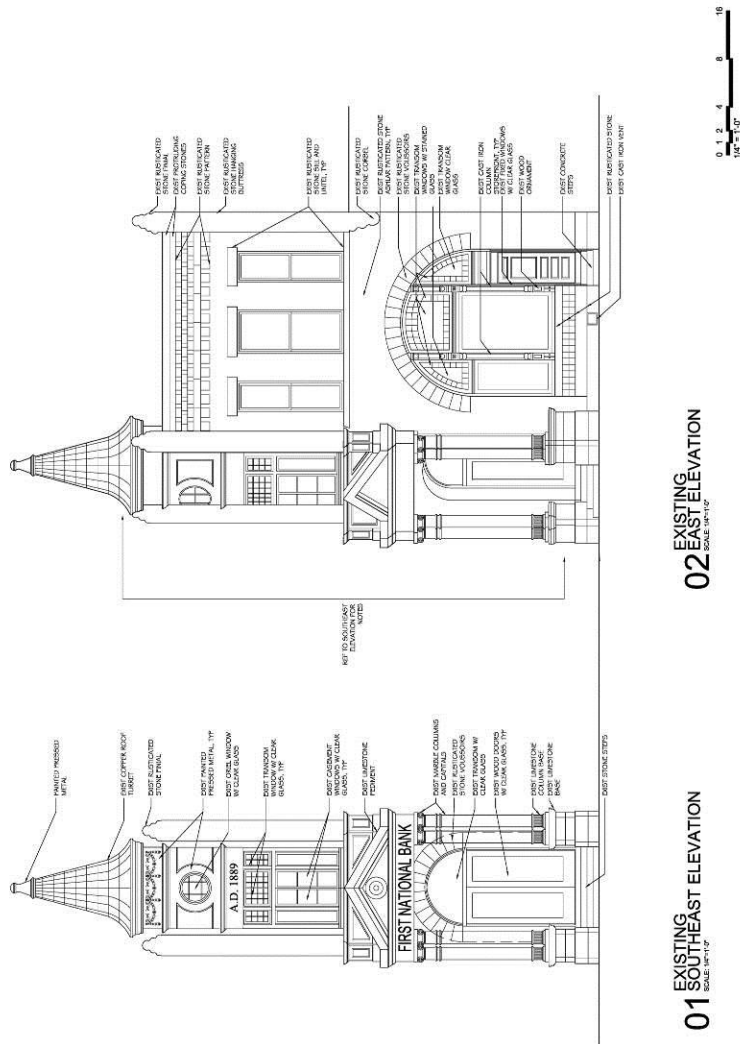


Figure 12 - Existing Southeast Elevation and East Elevation (prior to 2014-2015 rehabilitation)

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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## **CURRENT PHOTOS OF THE NOMNATED PROPERTY**

*The following photos were also submitted to the National Park Service as high quality digital files.*



**Photo 1** - South Elevation. Camera facing: North

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 2** - South and West Elevations Oblique. Camera facing: Northeast

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 3** - East Elevation. Camera facing: West

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 4** - South and East Elevation Oblique with Corner Entrance. Camera facing: Northwest

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 5** - North and East Elevation Oblique. Camera facing: Southwest

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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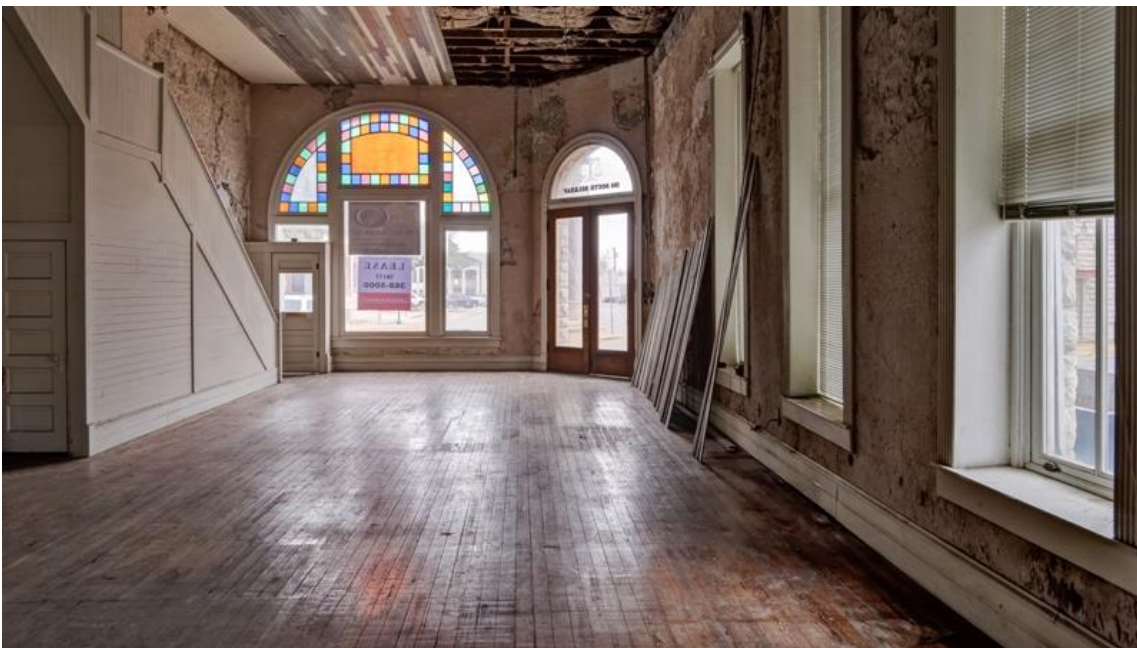
**Photo 6** - Close-up of South and East Elevation Oblique with Corner Entrance. Camera facing: Northwest

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 7** - Close-up of South and East Elevation Oblique with Turret and Second Floor Rounded Window. Camera facing: Northwest



**Photo 8** - Interior of First Floor Banking Space. Camera facing: East

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 9** - Detail of Original Decorative Plaster Frieze. Camera facing: West

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 10** - Interior of Second Floor East Offices. Camera facing: West

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 11** - Interior of Second Floor Office with Turret. Camera facing: Southeast

First National Bank Building, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

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**Photo 12** - Interior of Second Floor Corridor. Camera facing: West