

Bank of Wheeling
1229 Main Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-182

HABS
WVA,
35-WHEEL
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

EXHIBIT
100-11113

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BANK OF WHEELING

HABS No. WV-182

Location: 1229 Main Street, Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia.
Owner: Demolished, November 1983.
Last Occupant: Springer Sport Shop, Inc.
Significance: Built in 1892 for the Bank of Wheeling this rusticated stone facade was a good example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. The firm of Edward B. Franzheim, one of Wheeling's most successful and best known architects, designed and built the bank. In 1907 the Bank of Wheeling consolidated with the National Bank of West Virginia. The business of banking continued here until the early 1940's when the building was converted into a store.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1892. The 1893 Land Book of the City of Wheeling and County of Ohio records that a building valued at \$13,630 had been added the previous year.
2. Architect: Franzheim, Giese and Faris.
3. Original and subsequent owners: This building was built on Lot 12 of Square 2. John Miller subdivided this property about 1838 (Deed Book 23, page 101) and the property then became known as Lot 8 of Miller Subdivision. The above citation and the following references tracing the title of this property may be found in the Ohio County, West Virginia Deed Books.

1853 Deed, 5 September, recorded in Deed Book 38, page 330. Henry K. List and wife to Daniel C. List \$4,792.87 for Lots 8 and 12 of "Miller Property."

1853 Deed, 14 December, recorded in Deed Book 39, page 141. Daniel C. List and wife to Bank of Wheeling, \$400.00 for Lot 8 of "Miller Property."

1862 Deed, 1 July, recorded in Deed Book 46, page 65. Bank of Wheeling to Daniel C. List \$5,226.00 for Lot 8 of "Miller Property."

1890 Deed, 11 March, recorded in Deed Book 84, page 252. Daniel C. List and wife to Bank of Wheeling \$13,000.00 for Lot 8 of "Miller Property."

- 1907 Deed, 21 January, recorded in Deed Book 124, page 87. Bank of Wheeling to The National Bank of West Virginia \$10.00 Lot 8 of "Miller Property."
- 1914 Deed, 9 February, recorded in Deed Book 148, page 102. The National Bank of West Virginia to Fidelity Investment Association Lot 8, "Miller Property."
- 1945 Deed, 29 December, recorded in Deed Book 283, page 426. Fidelity Assurance Association by Special Receivers to George Boury, Sr. \$8,000.00 Lot 8 of "Miller Property."
- 1946 Deed, 4 January, recorded in Deed Book 283, page 481. George Boury and wife to Michael Boury, Jr. Lot 8 of "Miller Property."
- 1952 Deed, 12 June, recorded in Deed Book 343, page 244 Michael Boury Jr. to The Guaranty Company Lot 8 of "Miller Property."

4. Original plans, construction: The only known tracings of the original plans were burned in a fire in 1944.
5. Alterations and additions: The first floor of this building had been significantly altered. The front main room in which customers conducted their banking business was reduced from two stories to one story by the insertion of a floor. This intersected the crescent window (see photograph on page 10 of "The Wheeling Register Souvenir Edition"), and the glass was replaced and boarded up. The entry way was modernized and a single pillar which had marked the doorway was removed to provide space for a large display window and an aluminum frame glass door.

The plaster walls had been covered with red white and blue peg boards. The original stairway up to the second floor behind the front room had been modified to provide access to the second floor over the main room. This room had been used for storage and the walls and ceiling had been left as they originally were. Thus the pressed tin ceilings and wood and plaster mouldings remained, although in poor condition.

The back second and third floors were used for storage and little had been done to change the basic structure or floor plan. An unaltered third floor over the front room looked out onto Main Street and was used as a storage area.

The only structural change of note was the incision of a doorway between the Bank of Wheeling Building and the building at 1227 Main Street. Both buildings served together as the Springer Sport Shop.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

"The history of Wheeling's banks reflects in an unmistakable way the solid and substantial character of the commerce and industry of the city."¹ Banking in Northwestern Virginia began in 1817 with the establishment of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia in Wheeling. The Bank of Wheeling was established in 1850 as a private institution by C. D. Hubbard and Daniel C. List. It was reorganized and incorporated under the laws of West Virginia as a State Bank in 1890.

The bank building is "centrally located, in the jobbing section of the city² and is a three story structure with a rusticated stone facade." It was listed in Callin's Wheeling Directory as an office building "particularly deserving of mention."³

In 1907 The National Bank of West Virginia at Wheeling consolidated with the Bank of Wheeling. Earl W. Oglebay, President of the National Bank of West Virginia, continued to hold that position for the two consolidated banks. Mr. Oglebay was a significant business leader who gave his mansion and all its lands to the City of Wheeling at his death to be used as a museum and park.

Edward B. Franzheim of the architectural firm of Franzheim, Giesey and Faris was described in Cranmer's History of Wheeling (1902) as "probably the most successful and best known architect in the state of West Virginia." Born in 1866 in Wheeling, he attended the Linsly Institute and then studied architecture for seven years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. He opened an office in Wheeling in 1890. Cranmer states that "he does all classes of architectural work and has designed many of the most elaborate residences and buildings in Wheeling."⁴ The Wheeling News Register in its 1896 Souvenir Edition listed as some of the "noted buildings

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1. Wingerter. History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity, p. 300.
 2. Wheeling Register. City of Wheeling its History and Institutions with Illustrations and Sketches of Its Professional, Banking, Wholesale and Manufacturing Interests, p. 68.
 3. Callin. Wheeling Directory, 1894, p. 20.
 4. Cranmer, History of Wheeling, p. 331.

constructed and designed by Franzheim, Giesey & Faris: Hicks and Hoge Building, Bank of Wheeling, City Bank, House and Herrmann, Riverside Iron Company's Building, Peabody Insurance Company's Building, Egerter building, Stone and Thomas, H. Bieberson and most of the more prominent residences of Wheeling and surrounding towns."⁵

C. Sources of Information:

Callin, Wheeling City Directory 1894. Wheeling, West Virginia: W. L. Callin, 1877-1898.

Cranmer, Gibson Lamb. History of Wheeling City, and Ohio County, West Virginia. Chicago, Illinois: Biographical Publishing Company, 1902.

Wheeling Register. City of Wheeling Its History and Institutions with Illustrations and Sketches of Its Professional, Banking, Wholesale and Manufacturing Interests. Wheeling, West Virginia: Press of West Virginia Printing Company. No date, c. 1896. Private copy, owned by Mr. DeWitt Penrose of Wheeling Pittsburg Steel Corporation.

Wingertter, Charles A. History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity. Chicago and New York. The Lewis Publishing Company, 1912.

Interviews and Conversations:

Frank Jeffers of Boury, Inc., August 26, 1976
Doc Hennen of the Wheeling New Register, August 26, 1976
John Fair, Jr. (retired contractor), August 27, 1976

Prepared by: Candace Reed, Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1976

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural merit and interest: This building, with the 1892 construction date inscribed in the facade had a beautifully crafted Richardsonian Romanesque stone archway accenting the former two story bank lobby space. Other details also highlighted the well proportioned facade.
2. Condition of fabric: Demolished.

5. The Wheeling Register City of Wheeling, p. 80.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately twenty-three feet wide by one hundred and eight feet deep.
2. Number of bays: First level, one - upper levels, two.
3. Number of stories: Two and a half.
4. Layout, shape: Rectangular.
5. Foundations: Stone and masonry.
6. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls were stone and brick with cut granite facing on the front.
7. Structural system, framing: The spanning members were wood joists and timbers.
8. Porches, stoops and bulkheads: There was a small stoop in the front, with three granite steps leading up to the main entry at two and a half feet above street level.
9. Chimneys: One, on the south wall near the rear of the building.
10. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: The front entry had been completely altered and in its place was an aluminum frame curtain wall, including a door and large display window. The door location was unchanged.
 - b. Windows and shutters: In addition to the aluminum window wall at the first floor, it should also be noted that the large fan light glass which was originally under the major arch had been removed and boarded over. (The fan light is evident in an early photograph, as noted in the historical section.) The arch itself had the figure of a man's face in the keystone and was surrounded by an intricately curved arrangement of elements resembling the tails of dragons, which were almost hidden, in the cluster. At the second floor were two groups of three windows, each flanked by clusters of marble columns, with stone arches springing from the columns. At the top level was a horizontal band of five windows set back into the wall with four ornate columns placed in front of them. Two windows at the second floor in the rear of the building had been closed in.

11. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Front section, shed; rear section, flat; roofing materials not observed.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The roof was capped by a front parapet wall with a curved configuration. A decorative band extended across the facade below this wall. At each end of this band were lion head designs in relief.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The original building interior had been altered considerably with the introduction of a floor, reducing the original bank lobby to half its height. The first floor was fully occupied by a contemporary commercial business. It was essentially one large open space, with a small office space partitioned off at the rear. The second floor of the original building began midway in the building. This section was storage, and the spaces had been altered very little. There was a large open space at the head of the stairs and to the rear, a smaller office space with a fireplace. This was probably the bank president's office. Above the lobby, at the highest point of the building, was a small attic type loft space.
2. Stairways: There was a main stairway to the second floor and to the basement along the north wall. The straight run stair to the upper floor had a landing at the mid point, and only the upper half was original. It is probable that the original stairway had no landing. There was another stairway, enclosed, along the south wall, leading from the second floor to the attic loft. This was original.
3. Flooring: The basement floor was concrete and dirt. The first floor was carpeted and the upper floors were wood planks.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The basement walls were exposed masonry. The first floor walls were pegboard (contemporary) with a tile ceiling. The second floor walls were plaster. Above the floor that had been added was the original pressed tin ceiling of the bank lobby. A decorative plaster motif extended around the walls near the ceiling in this space.
5. Doors and doorways: None of the doorways on the first floor were original, but some of the door casing trim on the second floor appeared to be original.

6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinetwork: The tin ceiling already mentioned was particularly impressive. Another interesting feature was the wood fireplace mantel in the back office.
 7. Notable hardware: None.
 8. Mechanical equipment: Originally steam heating; contemporary in part of building that was in use.
- D. Site and Surroundings:

The building was in an urban setting. It fronted directly on Main Street and faced east. It was part of a street front, with buildings abutting it to the north and south. The rear (west) abutted another multistory structure.

Prepared by: John McRae, Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1976

PART 111. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, in cooperation with the Friends of Wheeling, Inc. The measured drawings were made during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of John M. McCrae (University of Florida) with architectural technicians Mark L. Hall, Foreman, (Pennsylvania State University); Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University); Ruthie D. Wiley (Mississippi State University); Alan G. Wilig (City College of New York); and Architectural Historian Candace Reed (George Washington University). The photographs were taken in 1977 by HABS Photographer Jack E. Boucher.

ADDENDUM TO:
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