

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ILLINOIS STATE BANK BUILDING

and/or common "LaCHARITE BUILDING"

2. Location

street & number 201 N. Chestnut \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Assumption \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Illinois code 62510 county Christian code

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name GEORGE J. LaCHARITE

street & number 201 N. Chestnut - P.O. Box #2

city, town Assumption \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Illinois 62510

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Christian County Court House, Recorder of Deeds Ofc.

street & number Court House - is at center of city square

city, town Taylorville state Illinois 62568

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title No Previous Surveys has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

# 7. Description

Condition  
excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

Check one  
 unaltered  
 altered

Check one  
 original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building has three floors and an attic, consisting of a basement which is in excellent condition, a first and second floor and an attic.

The FIRST floor and BASEMENT housed the former ILLINOIS STATE BANK that was located there from 1900 to 1933, and which housed the ASSUMPTION BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION from 1938 to 1965, when the latter merged with a Building and Loan Association in Decatur, Illinois. The FIRST floor and BASEMENT also contained the Law Office of George J. LaCharite from 1948 to the present time, and is still used as his Law Office.

The SECOND floor of the building is an apartment which is in good shape and there is an enclosed carpeted stairway on the West side of the building to the second floor. There is also an attic above the second floor with an enclosed stairwell from the second floor.

The outside structure is of excellent quality light tan brick along with bedford type stone, with two large round cement pillars supporting a peak corner cupola at the East end and top of the entire structure. The building has a mansard type roof which is very attractive. It has copper gutters and is well equipped with down spouts. The building still has its original appearance, except a large chimney that was on the South side of the building, which began to lean about five years ago and became a potential danger to the public and pedestrians, and we thought it best to remove it. We still use the base of the flue for a vent for the gas fired furnace.

The base of the building has recently been waterproofed by the Western Waterproofing Company, Inc. A good many people have stated to the owner

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Description

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and his family that the building is the most attractive building in the business section of Assumption. The entrances to the building are lighted each night with overhead indirect lighting.

INTERIOR -

The interior of the building is in excellent condition. The basement is clean, well kept, painted, has toilet facilities, furnace, storage and one of the former BANK'S vaults is still in the basement.

The first floor of the building is where the BANK was and the building has large, well made, white wood doors with beveled glass on them, and there is also a large beautiful door on the South side which also contains beveled glass. The first floor still has the original Bank fixtures and in the partition to the private room on the West part of the building. There are two original walk-in vaults on the first floor, with combination locks on each that are operational, and are used for storage and safekeeping of legal papers. They were formerly used by the Bank to store money and notes, and also one for safety deposit boxes.

The first floor ceiling of the Bank is designed, ornamental metal. There is a large leaded glass partition with the words "SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULT", which is at the top of the partition that separates the Bank lobby and tellers sections from the private office at the West end of the Bank.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Built in 1900      **Builder/Architect** IRA TOBIAS

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Section 8

COMMERCIAL USE IS OF PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE:

The Illinois State Bank satisfies two National Register criteria. As a well preserved structure, it embodies the physical features of the average turn-of-the-century small town bank in Illinois whose financial services were essential (Criteria A). Secondly, the building is significant as a rare survivor of the local buildings designed with a tower by Ira Tobias (Criteria C).

The building located at the main intersection in the city of Assumption, was the financial center of the city from 1900 to 1933. The present building was built in 1900 and replaced a former bank building that was built in 1883. The building built in 1883 was destroyed by fire in 1899 and was the reason for the erection of the present building which was completed in 1900. The year 1900 is cut in stone above the main entrance.

The building as a bank was the principal loan agency for the Assumption area, which included the town and farmers in a radius of some 8 to 10 miles. The present owner, who deals with area residents every day, hears clients say two or three times a month that their parents and uncles counted on this bank for all of their financial solutions. Several of them say their relatives had to go out of town for their banking needs after this bank closed and still bank

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out of town. The other Bank in Assumption has never to this day taken the "Normal Bank Risk" on a loan, but has always required Gold Bond Security. Hence, they have never served the needs of the Community like the Illinois State Bank did, even though it is a good safe bank.

The present owner's father, J. A. "Art" LaCharite, was employed in the old bank building as Assistant Cashier and Teller; he was Cashier and Chief Executive Officer in the new bank building from 1915 to 1927, when he died. J. A. "Art" LaCharite had no other occupation or job from the time he was 19 until his untimely death in 1927 at the age of 52; hence, he spent his entire working lifetime as an officer and employee of the ILLINOIS STATE BANK.

The present owner's grandfather, David LaCharite, was Vice-President of the bank from 1897 to 1899 and became president of the bank in 1899, and continued as President until his death in 1929.

From 1883 to 1933, and also at the present time, the people of the Assumption community referred to the intersection of Chestnut and First South Street as the "Bank Corner"; there is another bank across the street on the corner. Most of the parade functions, homecomings and other celebrations in the community start or go by this intersection. Both intersecting streets are paved and asphalted and are wide and improved highways. There is curb and guttering for the entire intersection.

The Bank in its existence from 1883 to 1933 did eighty to

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eighty five percent of the banking business in the community. It really served the area and made many loans to farmers, home builders, and industry, and since the town had a coal mine in it until 1929, it was the bank for all the miners and their families. It is the author's belief that it was a mistake for the bank to have ever closed; as economic history will show, our Government was not able to expand our money supply in 1932-1933 to meet the demands of the public. The bank paid out 92% after it was closed by the State Auditor, which of course was an envious record for any bank that had been closed due to the severe depression at that time. Many good customers of the bank have sorely missed its existence in the community.

ARCHITECTURE IS SECONDARILY SIGNIFICANT:

The architecture of the building is unique in the community and its exterior and interior has been preserved with very minimal alterations. The architect, Ira Tobias, designed a tower for the bank, thereby making it similar to other early homes and commercial buildings constructed in the late 19th century and early 20th century. Ira Tobias designed (1905) the following buildings in Assumption: the United Methodist Church (it burned down in 1965); the Hotel Philip; and the (4-story) James Downs House. The Hotel and the House are still standing. All three buildings had towers. However, the Bank Building is a rare survivor of an architectural feature once common in Assumption, Illinois.

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According to LAVIGNE YOUNT, of Kankakee, Illinois, a daughter of IRA TOBIAS; her father had his degree in Architecture and moved from Assumption, Illinois to Springfield, Illinois during the time of World War I; and that he was an Architect with the Department of Public Works and Buildings, State of Illinois. He worked for the State of Illinois until his death in 1939.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 3.) "ASSUMPTION CENTURY OF PROGRESS, 1853-1953", published in 1953 by The Prairie State Tribune, Assumption, Illinois; available at the Assumption Public Library, Assumption, Illinois
- 4.) GEORGE J. LaCHARITE; he is the grandson of DAVID LaCHARITE, who was President of the Bank from 1899 to 1929



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1.) "HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS AND HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY"  
Published in 1918 - Munsell Publishing Co. - Vol. II - Page 294

2.) PRAIRIE STATE TRIBUNE, a newspaper at Assumption, Illinois - now known  
Golden Prairie News 3.) continue

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

D 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

E 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

F 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

G 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

H 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

Verbal boundary description and justification

East 52' of South 20 of Lot 10, Block 4, Tacusah, now a part of City of Assumption, Christian County, Illinois

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title George J. LaCharite

organization owner & occupier of bldg since 1938                      date                     

street & number 510 W. 1st South - P.O. Box 2 telephone 217/226-4100 or 217/226-42

city or town Assumption state Illinois 62510

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

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

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 21 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning August 12, 1984 and ending August 18, 1984. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

COLORADO, Gunnison County, Gunnison vicinity, Curecanti Archeological District, W of Gunnison (08/15/84)

COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo vicinity, Butler House, 6916 Broadacre Rd. (08/16/84)

CONNECTICUT, Hartford County, East Hartford, Gilman-Hayden House, 1871 Main St. (08/16/84)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, Wilmington, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1108 N. Adams St. (08/16/84)

ILLINOIS, Adams County, Clayton vicinity, Lewis Round Barn (Round Barns in Illinois TR), NW of Clayton (08/16/84)

ILLINOIS, Christian County, Assumption, Illinois State Bank Building, 201 N. Chestnut St. (08/16/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Hyde Park-Kenwood Historic District (Boundary Increase), 821-829 and 816-826 E. 49th St. (08/16/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Lemont vicinity, St. James Catholic Church and Cemetery, 106th St. and Archer Ave. (08/16/84)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Chatham vicinity, Caldwell Farmstead, IL 4 (08/16/84)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Maid-Rite Sandwich Shop, 118 N. Pasfield St. (08/16/84)

INDIANA, Vigo County, Terre Haute, Terre Haute Post Office and Federal Building (Downtown Terre Haute MRA), 7th and Cherry Sts. (08/13/84)

KENTUCKY, Campbell County, Newport, Wiedemann, Charles, House, 1102 Park Ave. (08/16/84)

KENTUCKY, Graves County, Mayfield, Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Roughly bounded by North, Water, 5th and 9th Sts. (08/16/84)

KENTUCKY, Meade County, Brandenburg, Brandenburg Methodist Episcopal Church (Brandenburg MRA), 215 Broadway (08/14/84)

KENTUCKY, Meade County, Brandenburg, Goff-Baskett House (Brandenburg MRA), 550 Lawrence St. (08/14/84)

KENTUCKY, Meade County, Brandenburg, Jones-Willis House (Brandenburg MRA), 321 Main St. (08/14/84)

KENTUCKY, Meade County, Brandenburg, Meade County Clerk Office-Rankin House (Brandenburg MRA), 205 Lafayette St. (08/14/84)

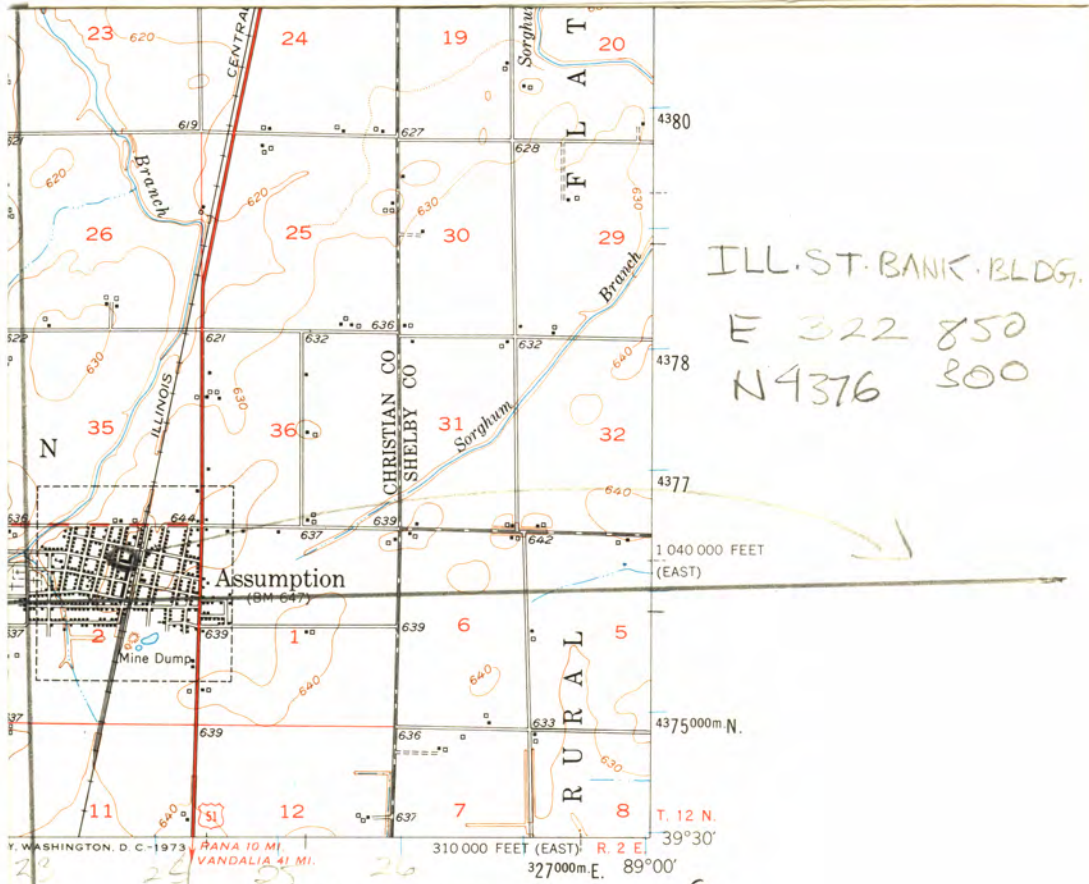
KENTUCKY, Meade County, Brandenburg, Meade County Jail (Brandenburg MRA), 125 Main St. (08/14/84)

KENTUCKY, Meade County, Brandenburg, Richardson House (Brandenburg MRA), 547 Lawrence St. (08/14/84)

KENTUCKY, Meade County, Brandenburg, Yeakel, Edward, House (Brandenburg MRA), 116 Decatur St. (08/14/84)

KENTUCKY, Pulaski County, Burnside, Boland House (Pulaski County MRA), Lakeshore Dr. (08/14/84)

KENTUCKY, Pulaski County, Burnside, Burnside Historic District (Pulaski County MRA), Lakeshore Dr. and French Ave. (08/14/84)



ILL. ST. BANK BLDG.  
 E 322 850  
 N 4376 300

Y. WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1973  
 310 000 FEET (EAST) R. 2 E  
 327 000 m. E. 89° 00'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ——— 4 LANE 6 LANE Light-duty ———
- Medium-duty ——— 4 LANE 6 LANE Unimproved dirt -----
- U. S. Route    State Route

ASSUMPTION, ILL.  
 N 3930—W 8900/15

1952

AMS 3163 II—SERIES V763

(SHELBYVILLE)  
 3262 N