

VLR - 9/16/82 NRHP - 2/17/83

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic COLONIAL NATIONAL, BANK (Preferred)

and/or common Colonial American National Bank/Colonial Arms

2. Location

street & number 202-208 Jefferson Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Roanoke

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county (City)

code 128

3. Classification

Table with 5 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Accessible, Present Use. Includes options like public/private, occupied/unoccupied, work in progress, and various present uses like agriculture, commercial, educational, etc.

4. Owner of Property

name T.A. Carter

street & number 508 West Main Street

city, town Salem

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 24153

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Municipal Building

street & number 210 Campbell Avenue, SW

city, town Roanoke

state Virginia 24011

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Roanoke Valley Historical Society has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Roanoke Valley Historical Society

city, town Roanoke

state Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Colonial National Bank Building is located at 202-208 South Jefferson Street at the street's intersection with Campbell Avenue, one of Roanoke's major crossroads. The twelve-story granite and gray-enamel brick building became the city's identity-centerpiece in 1927 as the tallest building in Roanoke. Until the 1970s it remained Roanoke's tallest building. Its modified neo-classical-style form is punctuated with five large windows on the Campbell Avenue side, an interesting rare example of neo-classicism combined with the open glass expanses of modern architecture. As with most early skyscraper designs, the building is divided into three principal sections following the proportions of a classical column: base, shaft and capital. The base is formed by the first three stories of regular granite ashlar; the shaft is formed by the next seven stories of unornamented gray-enamel brick; and the capital is formed by the last two stories which are ornamented. The entrance vestibule remains in a good state of preservation, but the main banking room has been altered.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The building's first three stories are built of regular-granite ashlar. The main entrance on Jefferson Street is oversized with a scroll and molding surround. It contains replaced aluminum and glass double doors and a three-panel transom above. On either side of the center door are two openings. One, on the right facing, is a door; the other has been blocked by a sign. On either side of the door is a metal Moorish-style lamp, and at the corner of the building is a projecting clock with chimes. It is made of copper and green stained-glass panels. This clock replaces one which was shown in the original architectural drawings positioned above the front door. Two small windows above the openings are below a bank of six windows on a third story. Above is a frieze inscribed "Colonial National Bank" in V-sunk letters. There are scroll-rinceaux decorations on the sides of the lettering. The seven stories above are of unornamented gray-enamel brick until the top of the tenth story windows where there is a simple entablature setting off the last two stories and giving a "cap" to the whole. The panels between the eleventh and twelfth-story windows are decorated with rosettes of terra cotta. Below the main cornice there is an elaborate decorated frieze of rosettes; the cornice itself has modillions.

On the right side of the building is a three-story annex which was built in two phases to complement the original structure. The first phase was done in 1949 and the second in 1959.

The Campbell Avenue elevation is the same as the Jefferson Street elevation from the fourth story to the top of the building. On the lower section are five, two-story windows which, with their lack of ornamentation, contrast with the neo-classical decoration of the whole in their open, light punctuation of the granite surface.

The other two elevations are unornamented gray-enamelled brick. The eastern elevation has four vertical rows of windows and there are three extra windows at the base. The southern elevation has ten vertical rows of windows; six reading from the east. There are four rows of equal sized windows. A row of smaller windows for the bathrooms on each

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 1927

Builder/Architect Frye & Stone, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roanoke's Colonial National Building, built in 1926-27, is representative of the growth of this city as the banking hub of Southwest Virginia. Twelve stories high, with granite on the first three stories and gray-enamel brick and terra cotta decoration, the building designed by the local firm of Frye and Stone, represents the last phases of neo-classicism and the introduction of modernism into the area. The five large windows on Campbell Avenue are most unusual for this time in this area. They represent an unusual incursion of a modern window treatment into a basically neo-classical form. The base of the column-related structure has been opened with five two-story high expanses of glass on the Campbell Avenue side. Each of these two-story high windows contains thirty panes arranged three-over-ten. Most notable for the time is the fact that the windows cut from story to story. Roanoke's tallest building for fifty years, it was the heart of the financial center of the community's growing banking industry. The Colonial National Bank Building is among the last remaining skyscrapers of this era in Virginia.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Colonial National Bank Building exemplifies the growth of Roanoke as the city became the central banking hub of this section of Southwest Virginia. Built in an era of growth, it still represents prosperity to many older citizens. The building occupies a strategic location at the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Jefferson Street. Jefferson Street was Roanoke's financial center while Campbell Avenue was its main downtown commercial artery. As Roanoke's tallest building for nearly fifty years, the bank symbolized the strength and importance of the financial district and provided a strong visual impact upon its neighbors; it stands as an interesting architectural contrast to the City Market district immediately to the east.

When the local firm of Frye and Stone designed the Colonial National Bank Building in 1926, the structure was said to "constitute the last word in construction, fireproofing and safety."¹ The structure's most familiar aspect was (and is) its fine copper and stained-glass clock projecting from the Jefferson Street corner. Bankers and retailers have set their watches by it for half a century.

The firm of Frye and Stone was active in Roanoke, listed in directories as such, from 1922 through 1939. Both Edward G. Frye and Frank F. Stone were well known architects in this area of Virginia. During their partnership, they designed many buildings in the Roanoke area, including the Roanoke City Municipal Building, the First Baptist Church, Virginia Heights Fire Station, Trinity Methodist Church, The Boxley Building, and Saint Andrews School. Their firm also designed residences for a number of prominent citizens. John Thompson, architect, who was later associated with Frank F. Stone, described his former partner as one of the best architects I ever knew; he "gave much building for the money."²

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #3)

Barnes, Raymond. A History of Roanoke. Radford, VA: Commonwealth Press, 1968.
Colonial American Bank Corporation. Annual Report. 1974.
"Colonial American National Bank Will Move Into Its New Home Today." Roanoke Times, 30 April 1927.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 74' x 92'

Quadrangle name Roanoke, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

17	51913	31110	411215	91210
Zone	Easting	Northing		

B

Zone	Easting	Northing		

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Colonial National Bank is located at the SE corner of the intersection of Jefferson St. and Campbell Ave. and measures 74' x 92' with the 92' fronting onto Jefferson Ave. (Roanoke City Tax Map No. 4010801) Boundary Justification: The boundaries have been drawn to incorporate the city lot in which the building stands.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. L. Whitwell and W. G. Kuthy

organization N/A

date August 1982

street & number 308 2nd Street, SW

telephone (703) 344-2044

city or town Roanoke

state Virginia 24011

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

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date SEP 16 1982

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****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

COLONIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, ROANOKE, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

floor is followed by three vertical rows of windows corresponding in size with the first four. After a space, one additional row is at the westerly end. On the interior, the elevator lobby is generally preserved in its original state. It has paneling of a pink-gray marble; remarkably, its original brass letter box and directory have survived. Both are excellent examples of the late neo-classical style. This space still retains the flavor of the period in which the building was completed. The main banking hall has been substantially altered with plywood partitions and a lowered ceiling. The original banking hall and lobby was described at its opening as being "...in a room 54 x 90 feet, finished in Bottinicino Italian marble and ornamental bronze. Walls and ceiling were decorated by Richter & Kolb. To the right of the lobby is located a small conference room for use of the public, an open space for the officers in charge of new accounts and five paying and receiving tellers' windows as well as a window for customers' statements."¹ The current owner has leased out this area for banking purposes.

The upper ten stories which were identical has sixteen office spaces and both a men's and a women's toilet. Typical of this period, there was one facility for the women and five for the men. Yet there was only one sink in each. The ten upper floors are currently being renovated by taking down the partitions and creating new modern open plan office areas. All existing toilets, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems are being replaced.

On the outside the building is being cleaned with steam and detergent as per Department of the Interior guidelines. The framework left from a sign placed on the roof some-time after construction of the building is being removed.

WLW/WGK

¹"Colonial American National Bank Will Move Into Its New Home Today," Roanoke Times, 30 April 1927.

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COLONIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, ROANOKE, VA

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Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

After 1900 Roanoke saw a great growth in banking activities with real estate and personal wealth values rising consistently. With the establishment of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, Roanoke rapidly became a financial and commercial center for South-west Virginia.

The Colonial Bank and Trust Company, forerunner of the Colonial American National Bank, was organized on July 21, 1910, and was granted a charter on August 1 of that year. The original site of the bank was 116 West Campbell Avenue. Organizers who were listed as the charter officers were Thomas H. Cooper, President; E.W. Mollohan, Vice-President; and H.M. Dean, Secretary-Treasurer. The first Board of Directors included: Mr. Cooper, S.M. Smith, Mr. Mollohan, Edward S. Barnitz, H.A. Harmon, R.K. Crockett, and Joseph Sands. During that first year of organization, the Colonial Bank and Trust Company merged with the Liberty National and a few years later, as the bank progressed with the growing city, there was another merger with the American National Bank; in 1929 the name became the Colonial American National Bank.

When the bank moved into its new home on May 2, 1927, its officers expressed pride in its interior fittings, which included high-speed Otis elevators, offices with outside views, and they mentioned its ornamented exterior. At the opening ceremony, President E.W. Tinsley said "Roanoke has been very good to the Colonial National Bank...We have confidence in the future of Roanoke and believe that its development has only begun. Here in the bank we look upon the building as an evidence of our faith in the community and of our determination to serve its businesses and personal interests."³

Bankers, retailers, politicians, indeed, many of Roanoke's business community have been involved with the building over the years. The 1927 board of directors of Colonial National Bank reads like a "Who's Who" in Roanoke business. Robert H. Angell, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, head of Virginia's fuel commission in World War I, and founder of Central Manufacturing and Shenandoah Life Insurance, is a prime example.

This talented group included gentlemen who had either served or would serve Roanoke in various city offices. It included the founders of the local firms of David and Stevenson, W.W. Boxley and Co., Marsteller Stone, Fox and Patsell Drug Manufacturing, Thurmond and Boone Furniture and the Colonial National Bank itself. Their ranks also included officials with most other major area businesses, owners of other local office buildings, private real estate developers, and several well-known lawyers.

Roanoke's economic, political and social pulses were therefore all directly connected to the Colonial National Bank Building. It can easily be assumed that many of the directors had large, direct investments in the structure.

Not only were Roanoke's leading citizens involved with the building as a financial venture, many professionals maintained offices there. According to Barnes in his A History of the City of Roanoke: "...Offices in the new building filled rapidly, a large number coming from the (rival) First National Bank Building..."⁴

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Early Roanoke influence could also be seen in one other aspect, stylistic conservatism. Roanoke businessmen wanted an efficient, up-to-date office tower, which they received. The classical ornament was forceably restrained by the dictates of Valley conservatism. This conservatism is also evident in the structural work which has taken place since the completion. Exterior alterations have been kept to a minimum.

The building was occupied by general offices and the Colonial American (Colonial National) Bank until 1981, at which time it was purchased by its current owner. Current plans call for the first floor to remain occupied as it is now by the Colonial American Bank, with the rest of the building which is currently vacant, to be used as office space upon renovation.

Preservation of this building with its significance to the city of Roanoke will be greatly assisted through the tax incentives made available by its eligibility as a historic structure. The current owner is an architect and recognizes the importance of this building within the commercial history of Roanoke.

¹"Colonial American National Bank Will Move Into Its New Home Today," Roanoke Times, 30 April 1927.

² Interview with John Thompson, Roanoke, Virginia.

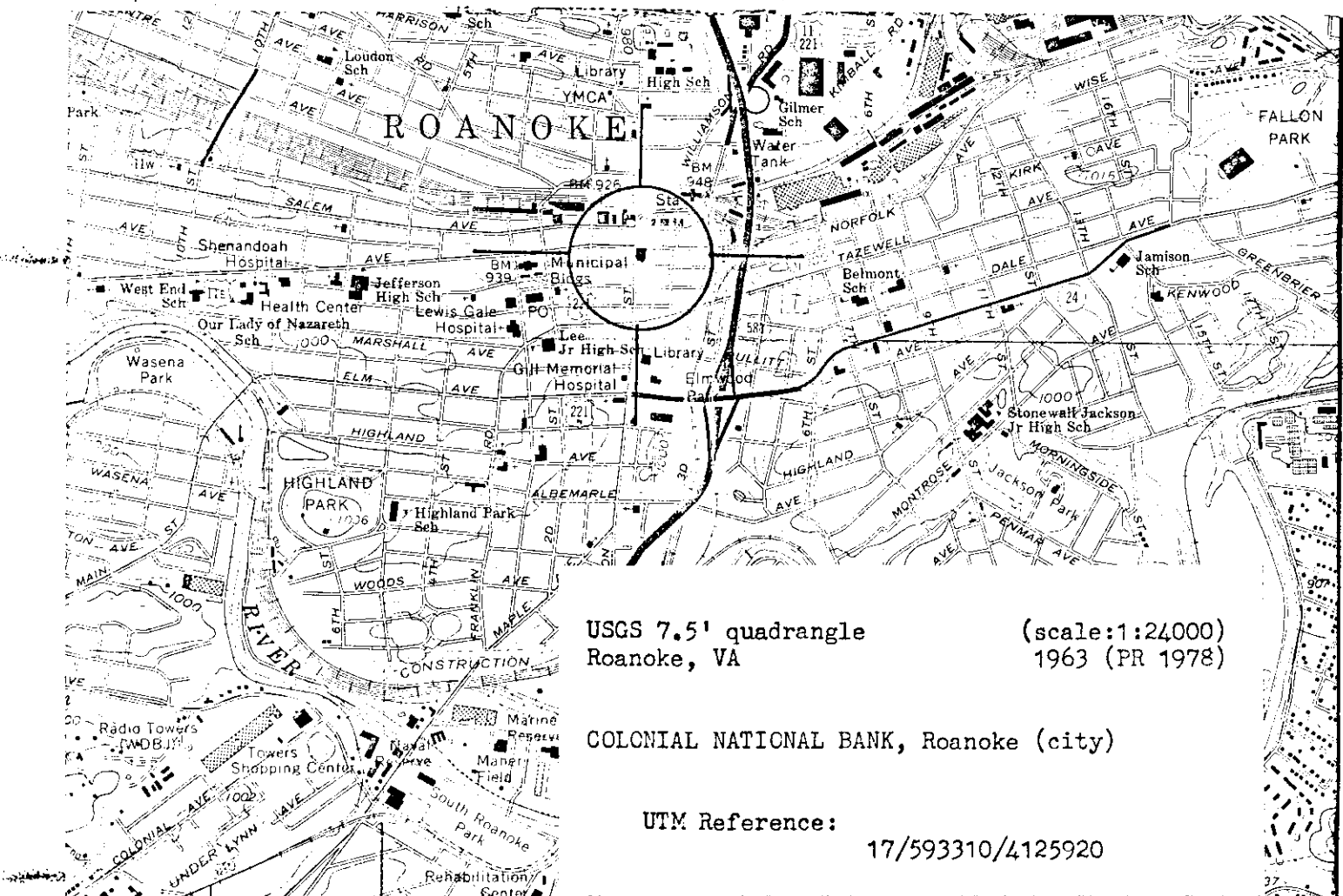
³Raymond Barnes , A History of Roanoke (Radford, VA: Commonwealth Press, 1968), p. 673.

⁴Ibid.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thompson, John. Roanoke, Virginia Interview.

White, Clare. Roanoke: 1740-1982. Roanoke, VA: Roanoke Valley Historical Society, 1982.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Roanoke, VA

(scale:1:24,000)
1963 (PR 1978)

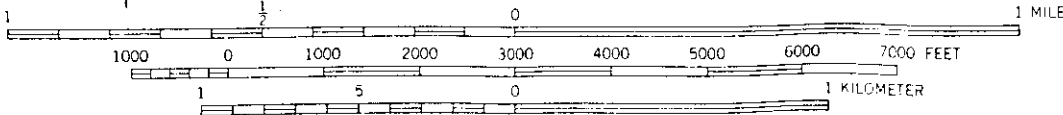
COLONIAL NATIONAL BANK, Roanoke (city)

UTM Reference:

17/593310/4125920

592 57'30" (GARDEN CITY) 5058 III NW 595 596 55'

SCALE 1:24,000



0°39'
2 MILS

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MAGNETIC NORTH
DIRECTION OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Boundary lines
information available

