

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clayton Banking Company Building

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 301 East Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Clayton N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Johnston code 101 zip code 27520

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPD 10/16/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Clayton Banking Co.
Name of Property

Johnston, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/financial

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/organizational

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Limestone

Brick

roof Other: built up

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Clayton Banking Co.
Name of Property

Johnston, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** 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.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1919/1920-1946

Significant Dates

1919/1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Clayton Banking Co.
Name of Property

Johnston, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	730150	3947880
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Joel Zogry

organization _____ date September 1, 1996

street & number 614-F Wills Forest Street telephone (919) 833-6923

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27605

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Clayton Area Chamber of Commerce

street & number 301 East Main Street telephone (919) 553-6352

city or town Clayton state NC zip code 27520

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Clayton Banking Company Building
Johnston County, NC

Description

The Clayton Banking Company Building, the exterior of which has been little altered, was constructed in 1919-1920 in the Beaux Arts Classical style for the town's only local financial institution.¹ The structure stands at the corner of East Main and Barbour streets in Clayton, surrounded by other commercial buildings from the first half of the twentieth century. It is currently owned and occupied by the Clayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

The building is a two-story rectangular brick block faced with Indiana limestone on its main (northeast) and secondary (northwest) elevations. The building occupies a rectangular lot which slopes from north to south, and rests upon a raised basement. The footprint of the building occupies the entire lot, and is framed by broad sidewalks on the northeast and northwest elevations. The principle features of the front facade, approached by granite steps flanked by stone pilasters, include a pair of three-quarter Ionic columns "in antis" framing the double front doors and a twenty-four pane fixed window above. On either side of the columns are first and second story windows. They were originally filled with plate glass on the first story; in the 1960s the west lower story window was fitted with a night deposit box. The second story windows are filled with sixteen-pane fixed sash. Above each second story window, and below the projecting entablature, are three sets of carved classical garlands in a swag and tassel motif. The front portico is framed by pilasters, each topped by two small Doric capitals decorated with carved Greek anthemions and an egg-and-dart molding. Above the entire facade is a classically inspired tripartite entablature, consisting of an architrave decorated with three vertical bands running the entire length and capped by a small egg-and-dart molding; a frieze engraved "THE CLAYTON BANKING CO." also topped with egg-and-dart molding; and a cornice of a plain narrow band capped by a projecting carved row of anthemions. In true Beaux Arts fashion, the entablature is crowned by a parapet with rows of vasiform balustrades alternating with plain block sections.

Another prominent feature of the front facade is the original exterior glass and metal burglar alarm located on the east side. Promotional literature from the Clayton Banking Company in the 1920s boasted that the "up-to-date electric Burglar Alarm System is constantly on guard on all occasions."²

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Section number 7 Page 2

The Clayton Banking Company
Johnston County, NC

Description (continued)

The Barbour Street facade of the structure is also sheathed in Indiana limestone, but lacks the carving and details of the front facade. Five sets of two-story openings deeply set within three-part stone surrounds are filled with stacked eight-over-eight double hung window sash. There are plain stone panels and sills. The second (northern) bay from the back of the building continues down to provide an opening for the original side door which leads into the building. The facade is capped by a continuation of the projecting cornice from the front of the building, above which is a parapet without the balustrade. It is believed that the corresponding side facade of the building was originally very similar (with the exception of the exterior door), but it is now largely obscured by a later structure.

The rear facade of the building is composed of unadorned **common bond brick**, with three large eight-over-eight double-hung windows on each story.

The only changes to the exterior of the building include the aforementioned night deposit box, the removal of the original plate glass windows flanking the front doors on which were painted "Clayton Banking Co.", and the replacement of the original double front oak doors with a pair of glass doors about 1967.³

Although the exterior of the Clayton Banking Building has remained largely unchanged since it opened in 1920, significant alterations have occurred on the interior. As originally designed the interior was essentially bilateral, with the east side for public use, and the west side for employee use. Customers entering the front door were faced with a low marble-faced wall to their immediate right which enclosed the office, and ran to about the center of the room where it formed the base of the teller cage.⁴ Photographs of the original teller cage exist, and show that it was three-sided with metal bars at the window openings. Behind the teller cage was the built-in vault. To the left of the teller cage was the lobby, boasting wainscoting of marble, fittings of bronze, and furnishings of mahogany. Off the lobby and to the rear of the building the public had access to a two-room "Ladies Lounge" complete with "soft and easy chairs."⁵ To the right of the teller cage access was restricted to bank employees, and

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Section number 7 Page 3

The Clayton Banking Company Building
Johnston County, NC

Description (continued)

consisted of the aforementioned office at the front of the building, a work space, and a small office located at the rear of the building. These spaces had wooden wainscoting. The interior had two distinct features. First, the lobby and front office area were open the full two storys to the ceiling. Second, behind the teller cage, above the vault, was a raised "mezzanine" as it was known, used as a meeting space by the board of directors. This space was open to the lobby below, and was accessed by a set of stairs on the right side of the vault.

In 1939 The Clayton Banking Company was bought out by First Citizens Bank, and in 1958-59 the first interior alterations were made. These alterations consisted of removing the marble wall and front office to create a larger open lobby, enclosing the mezzanine with glass windows and moving the access stair from the right to the left hand side of the vault, and removing the metal bar windows of the teller cage. In about 1967 the remaining base of the original teller cage was removed and replaced by the wooden counter now present. Other changes during this last alteration included the installation of the aforementioned night deposit box and the replacement of the original front doors with those now present.

Even with these alterations certain original interior features remain, including some of the marble wainscot in the area of the first lobby, the wood wainscot of the front office, and the original walk-in safe. One of the most interesting original features to survive is the radiator system, marked "Dunham Packless Radiator Valve," and patent dated February 16, 1915.

Endnotes

1. Smithfield Herald, 8 June 1920.
2. "Twenty-Five Years of Progress," pamphlet issued by The Clayton Banking Company, 1924, p. 7.
3. Interview with Margaret Canady (employee from 1956 to 1986), 25 May 1996.
4. All of the information in this paragraph is culled from the sources listed in notes 1-3.
5. Smithfield Herald, 8 June 1920.
6. Interview with Margaret Canady, 25 May 1996, and personal examination of building, May 1996.

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Section number 8 Page 4

The Clayton Banking Company Building
Johnston County, NC

Statement of significance

The 1919/1920 Clayton Banking Company Building is a significant historic building both because of the role the financial institution played in the commerce and economic growth of this Johnston County town, and because stylistically it is a highly sophisticated Beaux Arts design which is now recognized as a major local landmark. Between 1920 and 1939 the bank served as the major lending institution in Clayton, run by local businessmen who played a key role in the economic growth of the town. The bank's success during the Depression led to its absorption by First Citizens Bank in 1939, which continued operations in the building until 1994. In addition, the exterior of the building has been little altered since its initial construction, and it contributes significantly to the streetscape of downtown Clayton.

Historical background and significance

The Clayton Banking Company was founded in November of 1899 by a group of local businessmen because "every community needs a safe, helpful bank—an institution dedicated to the service of the individual, and to the community, through helpfulness in building up savings accounts, encouraging and assisting families to own their own homes, aiding farmers to improve their farms and buy more land, and assisting business to expand."¹ Among the founders and first directors were prominent Clayton citizens including Ashley Horne and A.J. Barbour.²

The bank opened in 1899 in a small brick building on Main Street, with an initial investment of \$10,000. By 1919 the bank's assets had grown to over \$100,000, and the original building was inadequate to handle the growing business.³ In that year an architect (who remains unknown) was hired to design a new building, and construction was commenced that year. Amid much fanfare the new edifice was opened in June of 1920, and it was immediately hailed as "magnificent" and "the very acme of perfection" by the local press.⁴ The importance of the bank to the community was also noted at the time of the opening; as essential to Clayton as the "sunlight and rain to the growing crops of the field."⁵ So proud were the directors of their new temple to commerce, that they had an engraving of the building printed on their early checks."⁶

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

The Clayton Banking Company Building
Johnston County, NC

Statement of significance (continued)

The success of the bank throughout the 1920s and 1930s led to its purchase by First Citizens Bank of North Carolina in May of 1939.⁷ Despite the effects of the Great Depression, the bank remained solvent throughout the 1930s and was an attractive acquisition for First Citizens, which has continued to grow to become one of the largest regional banks in the South. It should also be noted that First Citizens was founded in Johnston County, and during the 1930s and 1940s was absorbing local banks such as the nearby Bank of Smithfield.⁸ First Citizens operated a branch office in the Clayton Banking Company building until 1994, when it moved to a new location in town. Recognizing the historic significance of the building, along with its importance as a major landmark in town, First Citizens donated the structure to the Clayton Area Chamber of Commerce in 1995 for use as its headquarters.⁹ The donation was made with the understanding that the historical features of the building would be maintained.

As described in Section 7, The Clayton Banking Company Building is a sophisticated, fully-developed example of the prevailing Beaux Arts Classical style popular for public edifices during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is relatively small for a public building in this mode, although excellently proportioned and clearly designed by a professional architect. An architectural survey in 1982 noted the structure as "the most stylish commercial building in Clayton," and in fact there are no others like it in town.¹⁰ Johnston County precedents include the 1913 First Citizens Bank of Smithfield, designed by local architect V.C. Brown, and the 1920 Johnston County Courthouse also in Smithfield, designed by Harry Barton of Greensboro, North Carolina.¹¹ A major regional precedent may be the 1913 State Administration Building (now the Ruffin Building) in Raleigh,¹² designed by architect P. Thornton Mayre of Atlanta, Georgia. As it stands today The Clayton Banking Building is the most recognizable landmark on Main Street in Clayton.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8.9 Page 6

The Clayton Banking Company Building
Johnston County, NC

Statement of significance (continued)

Endnotes

1. "Twenty-Five Years of Progress," pamphlet issued by The Clayton Banking Company, 1924, pp. 1-2.
2. Ibid., p. 8.
3. Ibid., p. 4.
4. Smithfield Herald, 8 June 1920.
5. Ibid.
6. A check issued by The Clayton Banking Company in 1925 is in the possession of Samuel Robertson of Clayton.
7. Deed of Sale, 16 May 1939, Clayton Chamber of Commerce files.
8. Beth Thomas, "National Register Nomination, Downtown Smithfield Historic District" (Survey and Planning Branch files, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).
9. News & Observer (Raleigh), 7 December 1994.
10. Clayton News, 15 December 1994.
11. Beth Thomas, "National Register Nomination, Downtown Smithfield Historic District"; and "National Register Thematic Nomination, Courthouses in North Carolina" (Survey and Planning Branch files, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).
12. Catherine Bishir, North Carolina Architecture (Chapel Hill, NC: University Press, 1989), p. 388.

Bibliography

Bishir, Catherine. North Carolina Architecture. Chapel Hill, NC: The University Press of North Carolina, 1989.

"Bank Building set to be new Chamber office is landmark."
Clayton News, 15 December 1994.

"Clayton Banking Company's Opening." Smithfield Herald,
8 June 1920.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9.10 Page 7

The Clayton Banking Company Building
Johnston County, NC

Bibliography (continued)

"Clayton Chamber will get First Citizens building: Historic Integrity must be preserved." News and Observer (Raleigh), 7 December, 1994.

"Clayton: First a Dream, 1869-1969." Clayton, NC: Clayton Centennial Corporation, 1969.

Roth, Leland. A Concise History of American Architecture. New York: Harper Row, 1979.

"Twenty-Five Years of Progress." Clayton, NC: The Clayton Banking Company, 1924.

Verbal Boundary Description

Johnston County GIS Map t166917, lot 9392.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with The Clayton Banking Company Building.

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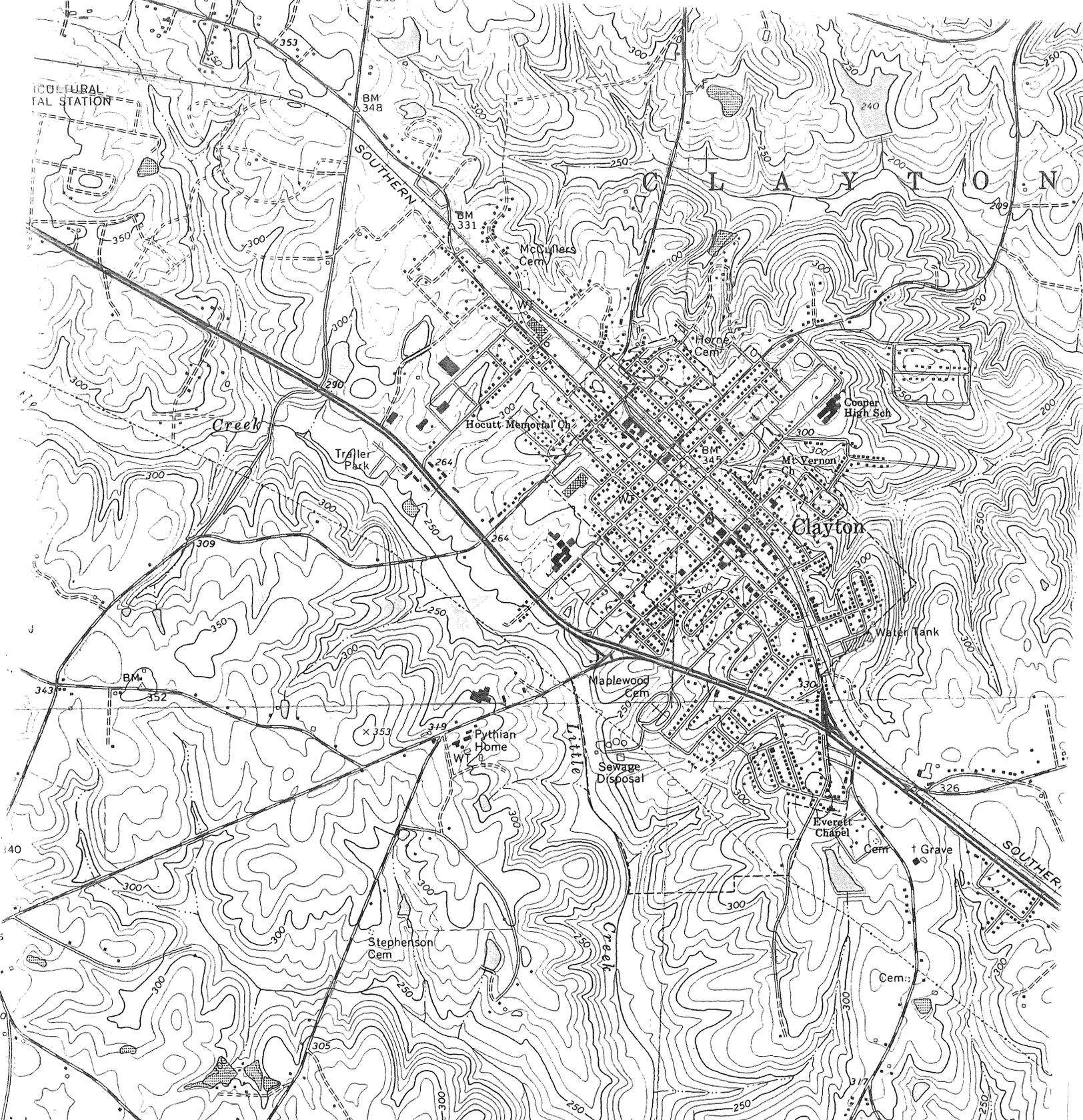
Continuation Sheet

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The Clayton Banking Building
Johnston County, NC

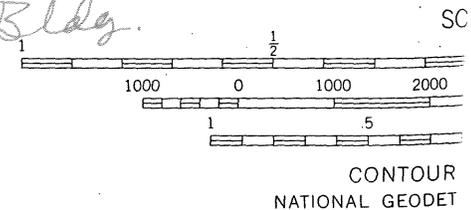
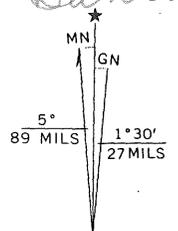
Photographs

The exterior photographs (negative numbers N.83.3.3238, 3239, 3240, and 3243) were taken during the 1983 Johnston County Survey in 1983 by Tom Butchko. A 1996 visit to the building indicated that there have been no alterations made to the exterior.



ed, and published by the Geological Survey
 GS, USC&GS, and USCE
 photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 Field checked 1964
 2 150 000 FEET
 728 729 730 27°30" 731

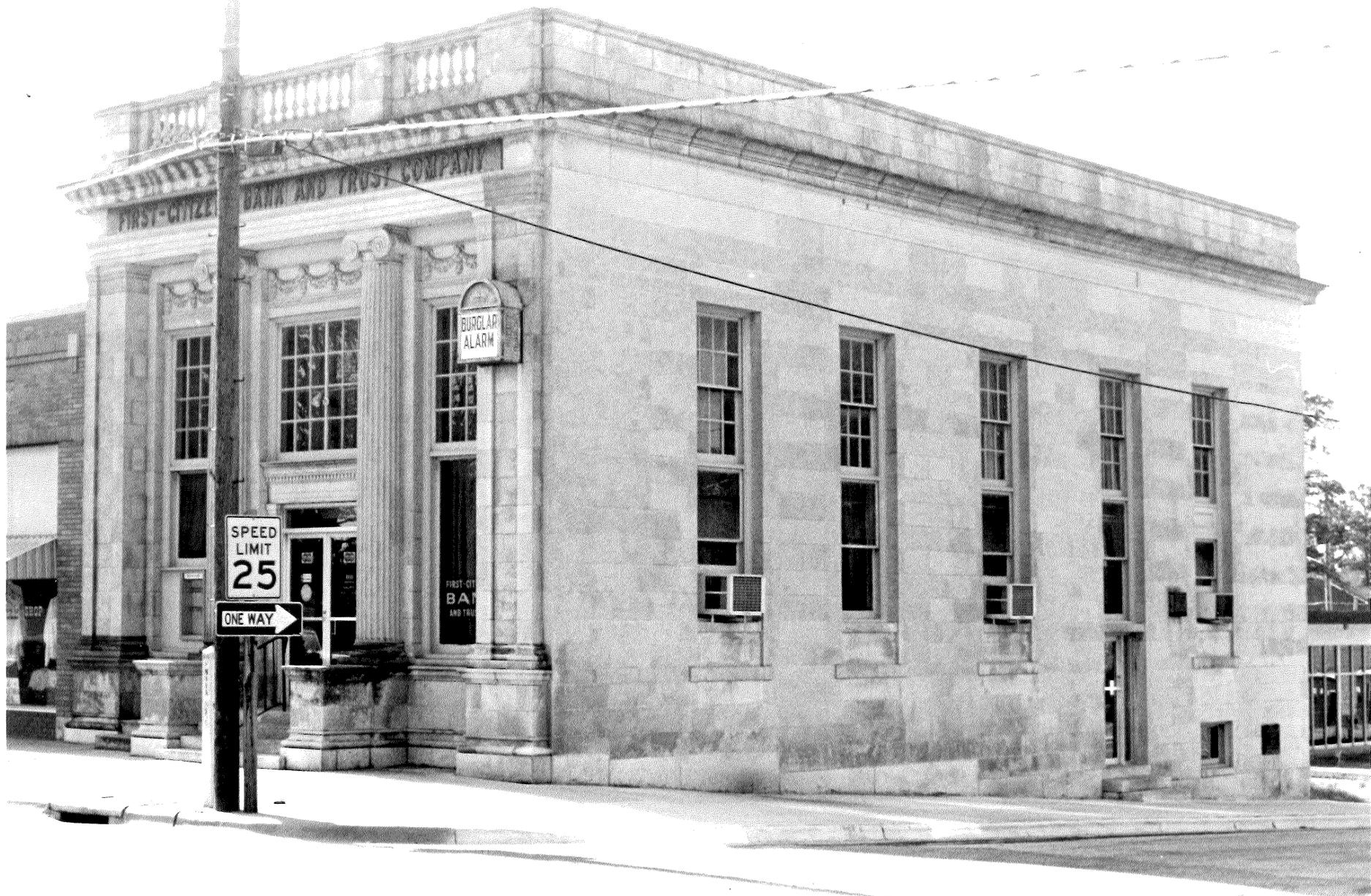
Clayton Banking Co. Bldg.
Clayton



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Map photoinspected 1988
 for color culture or drainage changes observed

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH FOR SALE BY



FIRST-CITY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

BURGLAR ALARM

SPEED LIMIT
25

ONE WAY

FIRST-CITY
BANK
AND TRUST