



Richland County History Room photo.

The Richland County Bank building, 195 West Court Street -1912.

The Richland County Bank originally began as the W.H. Pier Bank in 1881. Pier's purchase of the Smith and Law Abstract business sometime between 1873 and 1877 which led to lucrative land investments enabled him to establish his bank. In 1883, the quarters of the W.H. Pier Bank, The Krouskop & Company Store, burned, and he soon located his business in the newly erected two-story brick building at 142 South Central.



W.H. Pier-Richland County History Room photo.

When the banking laws ended private banks in 1903, Pier incorporated his bank under a state charter, its first board of directors included W.H. Pier, A.V. Pier, J.H. Yeaman, J.E. Coffland and M.F. Fiske. W.H. Pier then served as president until 1913 when this position was taken over by his son A.V. Pier. W.H. Pier, upon retirement, located to California where he died in 1924, at age 81.

A savings department was added to their services in 1907. The bank erected a new building in 1912 into which the post office moved in that year. When the bank moved into the building in 1921, it added a wing for the abstract office and did extensive remodeling. It expanded into an adjoining building in 1973 and added a new wing in 1975.

The W.H. Pier building, historically known as the Post Office Building and later as the Richland County Bank is a Beaux-Arts classical influenced building. The building is constructed of dark brown brick with a projecting dentil-trimmed cornice, plain brick parapet, large segmental arched window openings ornamented by scroll shaped keystones and by strap



work like ornament on the upper story and rectangular window openings on the lower story. The original building received a small one-story addition on the south side in 1921 and another large one-story addition in 1975. The building was altered further by the replacement of the original arched windows with rectangular windows and board paneling and by filling in the large rectangular plate glass and transom windows with small windows and stuccoed panels. The original entrance in the corner bay was filled in with a stucco panel and was moved to the center of the north façade. Initially occupied mainly by the Post Office, as well as Tipton's

Post Office in Richland County Bank building 1912-Martin Copenhefer Postmaster. Richland County History Room photos.

Piano Store and Joe Carberry's ice cream parlor in the south portion of the building, the Pier Building was remodeled extensively on the interior by a Minneapolis bank specialist when the Richland County Bank moved into the building after the Post Office moved to the First National Bank building in 1920.

