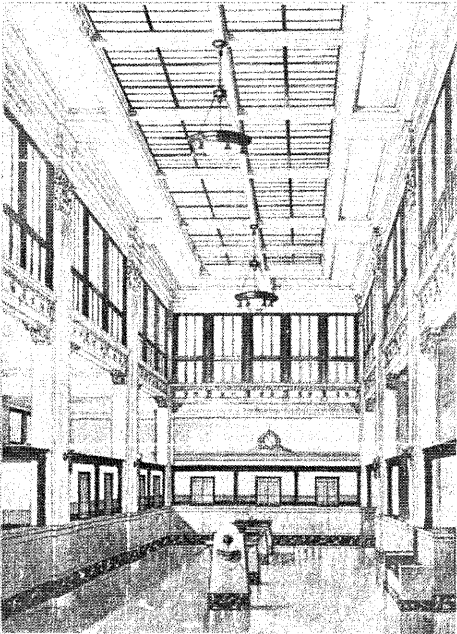


Photos provided by Richland County History Room.

### The First National Bank – 108 East Court Street, 1920.

Constructed of Bedford stone in the Neo-classic style, this bank building exhibits a colossal portico featuring two-story Ionic stone columns and end piers with Corinthian capitals. To describe it more simply, Neo-classical, or “new” classical, architecture describes buildings that are inspired by the classical architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. If you look closely at Neo-classical buildings you are likely to see design elements of the Parthenon in Athens or the Pantheon in Rome.

Well preserved, this bank building received a stone addition in a simple modern design on the east side in 1976. Designed, constructed and furnished by bank specialist, the A. Moorman Company of St. Paul, Minn. in 1920, the building features a two-story lighted center court and imported marble surfaces.



The bank went into receivership in 1928, by 1933 approximately \$500,000 in assets had been liquidated, much of that at a discount. There were proposals to make the bank the permanent post office for Richland Center, but the building did not fit the specifications required to become a post office. There was an emergency measure considered at the congressional level to pass a law to allow an exemption to the existing statutes, which did not take place. The Farmers and Merchants Bank, located just west on Court St., purchased the First National Bank building in 1935 and operated from that location for many years.

Many prominent citizens of the city have been associated with the banking business at this location since it was built in 1920.

