

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Citizens Bank BuildingOther names/site number: CG0138

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 100 W. Washington StreetCity or town: Jonesboro State: Arkansas County: CraigheadNot For Publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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 ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK

STONE/Granite

METAL/Steel

GLASS

CONCRETE

SYNTHETICS/Rubber

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Citizens Bank Building is a seven-story structure located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Washington Street and Main Street in downtown Jonesboro, due north of the Craighead County Courthouse Western District (NR listed 9/11/98). The composite steel-frame building with a flat roof was originally home to commercial banking on the ground level and office spaces on the upper floors. The building is characterized by the ribbons of glass and enamel panels on the south and east facades but simpler masonry and glass walls on the north and west facades.

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Narrative Description

The Citizens Bank Building was initially constructed in 1954 with a three-story addition completed in 1962. The original section of the building was designed by the Little Rock firm, McAninch and Mahnker, and the addition was designed by the local firm, Elmer A. Stuck and Associates, which was renamed Stuck, Frier, Lane & Scott, Inc., by the time the addition was constructed. It is located at the intersection of Washington and Main streets, in downtown Jonesboro. Historically, Main Street was the primary north-south street running through the city, and Washington Street was the dominant east-west thoroughfare. After the addition was completed, the Citizens Bank Building became the tallest building in downtown Jonesboro, a title which it still holds today. The setting around the building is relatively flat with a slight downward slope to the west and north, which is typical for this area of Jonesboro.

The Citizens Bank Building is rectangular in plan, being forty-eight feet four inches wide and ninety feet deep. It is eighty-five feet four inches tall on the south side but is roughly 102 feet tall on the eastern side, due to the sloping terrain and presence of a mechanical penthouse. It rests on a continuous concrete foundation and has a composite steel frame structure. The structure is capped with a flat roof, which is covered in a rubber membrane. There are seven floors to the building above ground and a single basement level below. Historically, the ground level was occupied solely by a bank, while the upper six levels housed office spaces.

The exterior of the building is characterized by alternating ribbons of glass and porcelain-enamel panels framed by painted brick columns on the south and east façade. However, the north and west façades are characterized by large spans of painted brick with openings of various sizes. The east façade has an implied tower, which rises higher than the remainder of the rest of the building. This tower, located in the northeast corner of the building, contains the primary circulation systems, i.e. stairs and elevators, for the building.

South Façade

The southern elevation is the primary façade of the building. Unlike the other sides of the building, the south façade is symmetrically designed, and features a centrally located recessed entrance on the ground level, which is flanked by two large window openings. The ground level of the south façade is clad in granite, which directly abuts the brick overhead. There is also a plaque on the lower right corner of the façade that reads, "Historic Marker: Arkansas State College, Organized 1909. Arkansas State College conducted first session of school on second floor of a brick building formerly located on this site. 196 students enrolled. V.C. Kays, President. Erected 1963 by Citizens Bank for Craighead County Historical Society."

The upper floors of the Citizens Bank Building are framed on three sides by brick, with alternating bands of porcelain-enamel panels and windows within. There are six columns of windows on the southern elevation, which are separated by decorative framing. The openings on the second, third, and fourth floors, which were part of the original building, are sets of four aluminum frame awning windows. The openings on the fifth, sixth, and seventh floors are taller

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than those on the lower levels and contain a large aluminum frame stationary window over short aluminum frame awning window. This also a series of four, symmetrically arranged "fresh air grills" that appear below the windows on the second, third, and fourth floors.

East Façade

The eastern elevation is the largest exposed façade of the building, due, in part, to the northern sloping nature of the street as well as the penthouse protrusion on its northern end. Like the south façade, the ground level of the building is veneered in granite panels and the upper stories have a brick band that wraps around the ribbons of windows and porcelain-enamel panels. The lower level has five sets of windows that are offset to the south. Like the south façade, the east façade ground floor openings are composed of two awnings windows above two stationary windows, with a pair of awning windows below. At the northern end of the elevation is a set of slightly recessed glass doors under a large, projecting flat awning, with a large transom window above.

Within the masonry frame on the upper floors, there are vertical thirteen bays, identical in width to the ones on the south façade. The ten southern bays have windows identical to the north façade; however, the three northern bays primarily contain additional porcelain-enamel panels. The only exception to this is seen in the middle bay on the second, third, and fourth floors, which have narrow sets of four awning windows arranged vertically, which are offset to the north within each bay. Like the south façade, the vertical bays are segregated by decorative framing. The three northern bays also extend higher than the previous ten bays, as they continue to the top of the penthouse structure, an additional floor above the remainder of the building.

North Façade

The northern elevation is the rear of the Citizens Bank Building. In general, this façade lacks the level of detail seen on the previous two facades and is primarily covered in brick. It also features significantly less openings than the other two sides. The ground level has a single door, which is at floor level and not ground level, a vertical stack of four small awning windows on the eastern side, and a vent grill set high on the floor on the western side. The second through seventh floors have three openings each, which are asymmetrically arranged. The eastern most windows are identical to the ground level window and vertically align with it. The other windows are arranged in two vertical columns, are shorter than the eastern windows, and are composed of three vertically stacked awning windows. Additionally, the top three levels have an added opening on each level, in the form of a metal vent grill. The penthouse protrusion is visible on this façade as well but contains no additional openings or architectural details.

West Façade

Like the northern elevation, the western elevation is simpler than the south and east facades and is primarily composed of large sections of masonry. Additionally, the western elevation is partially obscured from view by a two-story building that is adjacent to the Citizens Bank Building. However, the upper five floors are clearly visible from the ground. The third floor of the building has seven openings, uniformly spaced on the western side. These windows are

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composed of four vertically stacked sashes, with the middle two composing an awning window. The fourth-floor openings are similar in design and placement, except for there being only five openings, which are offset to the north. The fifth, sixth, and seventh floors are identical in their openings, arrangement, and placement. These floors each have six sets of three windows, composed of a large, stationary sash over a short, awning sash. Additionally, the openings on these floors are offset to the south, creating a larger masonry section to the north and a smaller masonry section to the south.

Interior

The interior of the building originally had a bank on the first floor, which was composed of a large open central area with teller windows down the western side and an office in the southeast corner. At the rear/northern end of the building, there is access to the stairs and elevators, as well as vaults for the bank. The stairs and elevators could also be accessed by the side entrance on the eastern façade. The remainder of the floors in the building are subdivided into smaller office areas, each floor different from the one above or below it. The offices are arranged around the eight interior structural columns and each floor has a central corridor that provides access to the various offices and all of the circulation and mechanical areas are housed at the northern end of each floor, including a men's and a women's restroom on each floor.

Integrity

Overall, the Citizens Bank Building in Jonesboro, Arkansas, retains a healthy amount of historic fabric from the time of its construction. The largest changes to the exterior of the building include the painting of the brick, and porcelain-enamel panels and the removal of the shallow, vertical sun-fins that were originally on the south and east façades, which occurred around 1992. Also, at that time, the main entrance on Washington Street was reconfigured from three glass doors with a large transom window above to a set of double glass doors with sidelights and no transom. However, these changes do not impact the overall impact of the design.

The setting around the Citizens Bank Building still reflects the period in which it was built. Though some neighboring buildings to the west and southeast were lost over time, the southern, eastern, and northern views from the building still reflect the vibrant downtown fabric that it did historically.

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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.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

ECONOMICS

Period of Significance

1954 - 1962

Significant Dates

1954 – Construction of original section

1962 – Completion of upper three-story addition

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

McAninch & Mahnker, architects (original structure)

Stuck, Frier, Lane & Scott, Inc., architects (three-story addition)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Constructed in 1954 with a three-story addition completed in 1961, the Citizens Bank Building in Jonesboro, Arkansas, was the first and only low-rise commercial building to be constructed in downtown Jonesboro in the post-World War II era. As such, it was the tallest building in Jonesboro upon its initial completion in 1954 as well as the completion of its addition in 1961, and it still stands as the tallest habitable structure in the downtown Jonesboro area. When it was finished, the seven-story building symbolized the post-World War II economic and construction boom experienced in the city of Jonesboro. The building is an excellent and unique example of the International Style of architecture because of its flat roof without a ledge, metal windows set flush with the outer walls, smooth wall surfaces with minimal decorative detailing, and its asymmetrical elevations. Due to its importance as the best example of an International Style commercial low-rise building, the Citizens Bank Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

Additionally, the Citizens Bank Building is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Place with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the commerce and economics of Jonesboro during the post-World War II era. Though there were two other significant banking institutions in Jonesboro during that period, the Citizens Bank Building is the only surviving banking center that was erected in the postwar period, thus being the sole structure to embody that period of economic and commercial growth for the city.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

European settlement in the area that is now Craighead County began c.1830 with the arrival of Daniel Martin who settled approximately five miles south of the site of Jonesboro. Other early settlers in the area included Rufus Snoddy, Daniel O'Guinn, Yancey Broadway, Joshua Grider, and William Puryear. Puryear also opened the first store in the county, which was located near Jonesboro, and brought supplies in from Memphis.¹

Settlement in the antebellum period was slow and virtually came to a standstill during the Civil War. After the Civil War, settlement in the area remained slow and did not really pick up speed until the arrival of the railroad in the later part of the nineteenth century. Although settlement in the area was slow prior to the Civil War, Craighead County was created on February 19, 1859. Interestingly, the county was named for Thomas B. Craighead, who was representing Mississippi and Crittenden counties at the time and was actually opposed to the county's creation. (The bill for the creation of the county was called up for a vote while Craighead was absent, and he found out about the bill's passage and the naming of the county when he returned to his seat.) The

¹ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, pp. 311-312.

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county was divided into two judicial districts, the Jonesboro district and Lake City district, in 1883 after residents in the eastern part of the county petitioned for it.²

Approximately two years after the creation of Craighead County, the site of Jonesboro was selected for the Craighead County seat of government. Jonesboro was named in honor of William A. Jones, the state senator at the time for St. Francis and Poinsett counties, and an ardent supporter of the creation of the county. By the beginning of the Civil War, Jonesboro had about 150 residents, and the town continued to grow slowly so that by 1880 there were three or four small stores and a population of about 200-300 people. However, the arrival of the railroads in Craighead County in 1882 and 1883 caused the town's population to grow tremendously so that by the end of the 1880s, "the population numbers 2,240 – 1,954 white, and 286 coloreds. To this number should be added about 300 for those living just outside the corporation."³

The growth of Jonesboro allowed for the incorporation of the city as a city of the second class on February 2, 1883. By the 1880s the city contained "two weekly newspapers, *The Jonesboro Times* and *The Craighead County Sun*, both well edited, and both devoted to the general interests of the county and its people." In addition, "Jonesboro has a lodge and chapter of the Masonic fraternity, a lodge and encampment of Odd Fellows, a lodge each of the Knights of Honor, Knights and Ladies of Honor, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Labor, and other societies; also six physicians and one dentist."⁴

By the turn of the twentieth century, sawmills and woodworking plants were the main industry around Jonesboro. However, once the land was stripped of its lumber, the mills closed and moved away, and Jonesboro took on a new role as an agricultural trading center. As a result of Jonesboro's new livelihood, a state board of trustees chose Jonesboro as the site for a district agricultural college in 1909.⁵ The establishment of the college has caused Jonesboro to continue to grow throughout the twentieth century, and it is now the largest city in northeast Arkansas.

As Jonesboro grew, so too did its banking network. In 1887, the first bank in the county, the Bank of Jonesboro, was organized.⁶ According to the 1890 Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, it stood at the southwest corner of Union Avenue and W. Washington Street. In the Spring of 1889, a devastating fire destroyed a great number of buildings and businesses along Main Street in downtown Jonesboro. Despite the fire causing a significant loss for the city, it also created new opportunities. Due to the multitude of new building projects, the need for a second bank was soon realized. The Craighead County Bank was organized later that year and occupied one of the

² *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 312.

³ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, pp. 312 and 315.

⁴ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, pp. 315-316.

⁵ West, Elliott. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 publication, p. 166.

⁶ Stuck, Charles A. *The Story of Craighead County: A Narrative of People and Events in Northeast Arkansas*. Arkansas: The Hurley Company, 1960. Pg. 92.

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sites that had been burned in the fire. Luckily, the two-story brick structure of the Bank of Jonesboro was not damaged in the blaze.⁷

By 1908, the city of Jonesboro boasted three banks in its downtown. The Bank of Jonesboro still stood at its former location, but the intersection of Huntington Avenue and Main Street saw the addition of First National Bank on its southwest corner and the Jonesboro Trust Co. on its northwest corner.⁸ These three banks provided the financial infrastructure that the city needed to continue its staggering growth at the turn of the twentieth century. From 1900 to 1910, the population of the city nearly doubled from 4,508 to 7,123. This trend, though at a slightly slower pace, continued into 1920, when the population was 9,284.⁹ Due to this continual rise, a fourth bank appeared in downtown Jonesboro by 1919, the American Trust Company, which was located at the northeast corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street. Things seemed to be going well in the city.¹⁰ By 1930, First National Bank and the Jonesboro Trust Company had merged into a single entity at the former location of the Jonesboro Trust Company, which had been renovated and expanded around 1920. The Bank of Jonesboro and the American Trust Company also continued to do well. Both of these institutions had also renovated their buildings, so that all three major banks in town boasted impressive Classical Revival style edifices.¹¹

However, the 1930s were a difficult time for the area. Though the effects of the Great Depression did not reach the area until 1931, a drought in the late Spring and Summer of 1930 caused the cash crops of the region, primarily cotton, to be severely damaged. As the harvest for that year was nearly nonexistent, farmers had to take out loans from the local banks to even have money to live on, much less plant for the following year's crop. Though the harvest in 1931 was bountiful, the collapse of the Stock Market meant that price of cotton was hovering around five cents a pound, while the farmers had taken out loans with the repayment estimates depending on a ten cents per pound return. The market would not allow the farmers to make the necessary revenue to repay their loans, which led to bottom of the Great Depression for the city. On December 11, 1931, the last bank in the city, the Bank of Jonesboro, closed its doors. From that day until early January 1932, there was no bank in the city of Jonesboro.¹² On January 6, 1932, a group of investors headed by Alex Berger, a Jonesboro native who lived in St. Louis, Missouri, organized the Mercantile Bank. It opened its doors for business on Monday January 18, 1932. Local newspapers reported that there had been deposits of over \$125,000 by at least 500 people by the closing of business at three o'clock that day.¹³

⁷ Stuck, Charles A. *The Story of Craighead County: A Narrative of People and Events in Northeast Arkansas*. Arkansas: The Hurley Company, 1960. Pg. 92.

⁸ Sanborn Map Company. Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas. 1908.

⁹ Hendricks, Nancy. "Jonesboro (Craighead County)." *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*. Found at <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/jonesboro-862/>. (accessed 1 April 2020)

¹⁰ Sanborn Map Company. Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas. 1919.

¹¹ Sanborn Map Company. Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas. 1919 and 1930.

¹² Stuck, Charles A. *The Story of Craighead County: A Narrative of People and Events in Northeast Arkansas*. Arkansas: The Hurley Company, 1960. Pgs. 149-152.

¹³ Duvall, Benita. "Mercantile Bank Building, Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places registration form. 2005. Found in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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Though the road to recovery was slow moving, the opening of the Mercantile Bank marked its beginning. The city was also aided by numerous New Deal projects that were constructed in the area. Despite the majority of these projects being constructed on the campus of Arkansas State College, later renamed Arkansas State University, there were still several notable structures built by the program in the downtown area of Jonesboro. These included the 1935 Craighead County Courthouse, Western District (NR listed 9/11/98), the 1936 Community Center No. 1 (NR listed 1/23/08), the 1936 Bridge Street Viaduct, and the 1939 Craighead County Jail.¹⁴ The work and addition created by these projects, as well as the general recovery of the local economy, allowed the creation of a second financial institution in the post-Depression Jonesboro. In 1934, the Citizens Bank Company had begun operations in downtown Jonesboro.¹⁵ They had taken up residence in the former American Trust Company building, at the northeast corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street.¹⁶

For nearly twenty years, from the early 1930s until around 1950, Mercantile Bank and Citizens Bank were the exclusive financial establishments in the city of Jonesboro.¹⁷ During this time, the city's population grew tremendously, from 10,326 in 1930 to 16,310 in 1950,¹⁸ which led to such a significant increase in business that in 1950 another institution also began serving the people of Jonesboro, Peoples National Bank, which took up residence in the former Bank of Jonesboro building.¹⁹ It was also due to this increase in business, that Morris L. McKinney, who was the president of Citizens Bank at the time,²⁰ decided that a new, larger facility was needed for the bank to continue to properly serve their customers in the area. In 1953, Citizens Bank purchased two buildings across the street from their location, at 100 and 102 W. Washington. That same time they commissioned the Little Rock architectural firm, McAninch and Mahnker, to create the design for their new building.

McAninch and Mahnker was founded by Arthur N. McAninch in 1929, when he and architect Jack Petter opened the firm Petter and McAninch. However, by 1932, McAninch was operating a solo practice, which continued until 1936 when he partnered with Bruce Anderson, who had worked under McAninch as a draftsman from 1930 to 1934, to create the firm McAninch and Anderson.²¹ During the 1930s, McAninch was primarily known for his Art Deco designs, which he created all over the state of Arkansas. These included the high schools in Hope and Arkadelphia in 1932, the 1936 City Hall Building in Eudora (NR listed 10/5/06), the 1939

¹⁴ The Living New Deal. "Projects in Jonesboro, Arkansas." Found at <https://livingnewdeal.org/us/ar/jonesboro-ar/>. (accessed on 1 April 2020)

¹⁵ McCracken, Lloyd, Jr. "The Early Banks of Craighead County, Arkansas 1878-1931." *Craighead County Historical Quarterly* 53. Pg. 17.

¹⁶ Baldwin Consurvey Company. *City Directory, Jonesboro, Arkansas*. Hebron, Nebraska: Baldwin Consurvey Company. 1936.

¹⁷ R.L. Polk & Company. *City Directory, Jonesboro, Arkansas*. St.Louis: R.L. Polk & Company, Publishing. 1951.

¹⁸ Duvall, Benita. "Mercantile Bank Building, Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places registration form. 2005. Found in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹⁹ "Banks of Jonesboro." R.L. Polk & Company. *City Directory, Jonesboro, Arkansas*. St.Louis: R.L. Polk & Company, Publishing. 1951.

²⁰ R.L. Polk & Company. *City Directory, Jonesboro, Arkansas*. St.Louis: R.L. Polk & Company, Publishing. 1953.

²¹ Koyl, George S., FAIA, ed. *American Architects Directory. 1st Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker, Company, 1956, pg. 10.

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Hempstead County Courthouse (NR listed 5/19/94), the 1939 Science Building on the campus of Arkansas Agricultural and Mechanical College in Monticello, the 1939 John Brown Watson Memorial Library on the campus of the Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal School in Pine Bluff (NR listed 1/13/06), and three buildings on the campus of Arkansas State College, many of which were funded by New Deal agencies. McAninch and Anderson's partnership ended in 1939. However, in 1945, McAninch found a new partner in John R. Mahnker, Jr.²²

John Roscoe Mahnker, Jr., was born in Atoka, Oklahoma, on September 17, 1909. He initially attended college at Arkansas Polytechnic College in Russellville, where he studied engineering, but he soon transferred to the University of Oklahoma, where he studied architecture. By 1937, he was living in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was working as a draftsman for McAninch. Like Anderson did before him, Mahnker worked his way up to become McAninch's partner in 1945. The early work of the firm was primarily religious in nature, with commissions in Little Rock, Blytheville, Camden, and Memphis, Tennessee, all of which were designed in Gothic Revival or Colonial Revival styles. However, by the late 1940s the firm began to design buildings in a more Modernist vocabulary, the earliest known project of which was the 1949 Carver Elementary School in Little Rock.²³

The commission for the new Citizens Bank Building was the first known major commercial project for the firm of McAninch and Mahnker. Completed in 1954, the new home of the Jonesboro bank was designed in the International Style of Modernist architecture. The name was created and the style first defined when Phillip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock created an exhibition in 1932 at the Museum of Modern Art, which featured photos and drawings of "modern" buildings from 15 countries, including the United States, which exemplified the movement. The exhibition was an effort to raise awareness and increase popularity of the new, "modern" forms of architecture. A book of the same title was published in late 1932 and further elaborated on the concepts and ethos of the exhibition. The term International Style was derived from the idea that a "modern" architecture should not take inspiration from the works and architectural experiments of various styles, architects, countries, and time periods, while also not applying any culturally specific, superficial ornamentation to the exterior. However, the International Style would embrace any localized stylistic variations that were born out of programmatic requirements necessitated by local climate or geography.²⁴ In this way, the International Style was not a set of architectural rules and stylistic motifs, but rather it was a collection of architectural ideas that embraced contemporary materials and construction practices. Because of this, examples of International Style architecture feature a wide variety of forms, materials, and typologies.

Johnson and Hitchcock set forth three guiding principles of the International Style, which can be seen in the design of the Citizens Bank Building. The first principle was to design architecture as

²² Witsell, Charles and Gordon Wittenberg with Marylyn Jackson Parins. *Architects of Little Rock: 1833-1950*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2014. Pgs. 99-100.

²³ Koyl, George S., FAIA, ed. *American Architects Directory. 1st Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker, Company, 1956, pg. 361.

²⁴ Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1966. Pg.36.

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a volume instead of a mass. By this, they meant that contemporary architecture was built using structural steel or reinforced concrete frames, which were later enclosed with a protective exterior cladding. This method stood in contrast to traditional masonry construction of the time, in which the walls provided both support and enclosure. With the "new" system, floor plans could be more open, with little interruption of interior supports or columns. In cases where this occurs, the supports of contemporary buildings would take up a fraction of the space needed by masonry columns or could be removed altogether by cantilevering the structure.²⁵ In the Citizens Bank Building, the welded steel frame construction allowed for an entirely open, flexible plan.

In addition to the openness and flexibility of plan, which is achieved by the steel or concrete frame, the concept of volume instead of mass extends to the treatment of the enclosing envelope. Johnson and Hitchcock made a point to explain that the façade of the building should be continuous and flat, like a skin covering the exterior. This would give the impression that the façade is merely a barrier to protect against the weather and to provide definition.²⁶ This led to the windows on International-Style buildings being flush with the exterior surface of the façade, opposed to recessing them as was seen in traditional architecture. The windows should also have thin, light frames made of non-corroding metal in standardized sizes. Additionally, the wall surface material should be as smooth as possible, preferably being made of stone veneer, though stucco, brick, and wood panels were also acceptable when appropriate.²⁷ On the Citizens Bank Building, the ribbons of glazing and porcelain enamel panels cascade across the two primary façades of the building. The windows and spandrel panels sit flush with the brick, thus allowing the facades to be read as single, flat surfaces. This effect was only interrupted by the vertical concrete sunshades.

The second principle of International Style was concerning regularity. This principle was to serve as an external manifestation of the internal steel or concrete skeleton of the building. Since building frames were generally built on a grid, it only made rational sense that the grid should also extend to the fenestration of the envelope materials.²⁸ While the grid of the steel structure of the building was significantly simpler than the grid expressed on the exterior of the Citizens Bank Building, the two grids do align, thus making the exterior grid an extension of the interior. Johnson and Hitchcock, did caution that the concept of regularity could potentially lead to perfect symmetry, which could, in turn, create dull and lifeless facades.²⁹ However, symmetrical facades were commonly seen on designs by early Modernists, such as Walter Gropius's 1928 Experimental Housing Development in Dessau-Törten, Germany, Le Corbusier's 1927 Weissenhof-Siedlung Houses 14 and 15 in Stuttgart, Germany, and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's 1927 Apartment House in Weissenhofsiedlung, Germany, all of which appeared in the 1932

²⁵ Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1966. Pg.55.

²⁶ Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1966. Pg.59-61.

²⁷ *Ibid*.

²⁸ Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1966. Pg.69-70.

²⁹ Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1966. Pg.73.

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Modern Architecture: International Exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art that served as the impetus for book *The International Style* later that year.³⁰ As such, the symmetrical nature of southern façade of the Citizens Bank Building does not, in fact, deviate from the common forms seen in designs heralded as early International Style buildings.

The third and final principle of the International Style was the avoidance of applied ornamentation. This is likely the most sweeping principle of the three, as it included not only traditional cornice, door, and window molding, but also landscape design, fixtures, building lettering, and artwork.³¹ This abstinence from decoration is one of the most well-known traits of the International Style, but also the most misunderstood. Johnson and Hitchcock meant this as ornament added without it serving a practical purpose. Elements that are necessary can have a decorative component; it just cannot overshadow the function of the element. On the original design of the Citizens Bank Building, the only elements that could be seen as decorative would have been the vertical sunshades and the flagpole that was originally located near the top of the building on the southeast corner. However, both elements also served a practical purpose and, as such, were allowable under the guidelines established by Hitchcock and Johnson.

Upon its completion in 1954, the Citizens Bank Building was the tallest building in downtown Jonesboro, with the next tallest being either the Craighead County Courthouse, across the street to the south, or the Hotel Noble, which was just south of the courthouse. Both of which only rose to a height of three stories. Additionally, it was the earliest example of Modernist architecture in that area of the city. It would not be until four years later that the area would see any other Modernist designs being built, which were the 1958 Jonesboro City Hall Building by Elmer A. Stuck & Associates at 314 W. Washington and the 1959 Department of Employment Security Building by Erhart, Eichenbaum, Rauch and Blass at 528 W. Monroe. As such, the Citizens Bank Building immediately established itself as a significant part of the city's architectural history.

Aside from creating a new landmark for the city, the completion of their new building added a great deal of new space for Citizens Bank. The footprint of the building was nearly twice the size of their former space, which allowed for the inclusion of additional services and expansion of existing services from the bank to their customers. The bank did not utilize all its new space immediately. Instead, they rented out some of the areas on the upper floors to outside businesses to use as office space, one of which was the KNEA radio station. Shortly after Citizens Bank had moved into their new building, a fourth bank opened its doors in downtown Jonesboro. The Farmers State Bank had taken up residence in the space formerly occupied by Citizens Bank at the northeast corner of Washington and Main.³² However, this new-comer was not able to compete with the established financial institutions in the city and soon closed its doors, which occurred by 1959.³³ The population of the city of Jonesboro grew at an extraordinary pace in the

³⁰ Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *Modern Architecture: International Exhibition*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1932. Pgs. 68-123.

³¹ Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1966. Pg. 81-89.

³² R.L. Polk & Company. *City Directory, Jonesboro, Arkansas*. St. Louis: R.L. Polk & Company, Publishing. 1956.

³³ R.L. Polk & Company. *City Directory, Jonesboro, Arkansas*. St. Louis: R.L. Polk & Company, Publishing. 1959.

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years following World War II, from 11,729 in 1940 to 21,418 in 1960.³⁴ By 1960, Citizens Bank operations occupied the entire building and they needed more space to serve their ever-growing customer base. This led the Board of Directors, which was headed by Herbert McAdams, to commission the Jonesboro firm of Elmer A. Stuck & Associates to design an addition onto the building.³⁵

Elmer Axtell Stuck was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, on February 2, 1900, and was the son of Elmer Charles Stuck, owner and operator of the Jonesboro Brick Company and the Stuck Lumber Company. Though he had been groomed to take over the family business with his brother Howard, Stuck chose to pursue architecture, graduating from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1924.³⁶ While Stuck was in school he worked in the offices of William B. Ittner, famous for his public school designs, from 1921 to 1923. After he graduated, he worked in the offices of LaBeaume and Klein in St. Louis, Missouri. However, he returned to Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1926 to open his own practice, which he operated as a solo practice until 1928. From 1928 to 1931, Stuck partnered with notable Arkansas architect John Parks Almand, during which the firm designed the Medical Arts Building in Hot Springs, Arkansas (NR listed 12/1/1978). This was Stuck's first large-scale design, but others soon followed. In 1931, Stuck left his partnership with Almand and created a new partnership with the Arkansas Modernist Yandell Johnson. This partnership lasted until 1938. During that partnership, Stuck is credited with designing the Craighead County Courthouse in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1934 (NR listed 9/11/1998) and the Earl Bell Community Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1936 (NR listed 1/23/2008). From 1938 to 1949, Stuck once again operated an individual practice, but due to an increase in prominent commissions, Stuck's practice continued to grow. In 1949, the firm became Elmer Stuck & Associates, which reflected the increase in staff size.³⁷ However, the firm's name changed again in late 1960 when Aubrey E. Scott, T. Sidney Frier, and William H. Lane were promoted to named partners, but the name changed again a year later to Stuck, Frier, Lane & Scott, Inc.³⁸

The mid-century period was an especially prolific period for the firm. Some of the more notable projects in Jonesboro from this time were the 1965 Kays Hall on the campus of Arkansas State University, the 1961 Arkansas Hall on the campus of Arkansas State University, 1960 Stuck, Frier, Lane & Scott Building at 601 Southwest Drive, the 1964 Craighead County Library at 315 W. Oak Avenue, the 1958 former Jonesboro City Hall at 314 W. Washington, and the 1969 Jonesboro Municipal Airport. Additionally, the firm designed several notable religious structures in the region, including the 1958 St. Michael's Catholic Church in West Memphis, the 1960 Temple Israel in Jonesboro, the 1962 Nettleton Church of Christ in Jonesboro, the 1966 St. Paul

³⁴ Hendricks, Nancy. "Jonesboro (Craighead County)." *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*. Found at <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/jonesboro-862/>. (accessed 1 April 2020)

³⁵ Stuck Firm Selective Project List. Found in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

³⁶ Williams, Callie. "Louis Rudolph and Flossie Belle Ritter House, Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas." Arkansas Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

³⁷ Koyl, Goerge S., FAIA, ed. *American Architects Directory, 1st Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker, Company, 1955.

³⁸ Koyl, Goerge S., FAIA, ed. *American Architects Directory, 2nd Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker, Company, 1962.

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Methodist Church in Jonesboro, the 1966 chapel and education building at the United Methodist Church in Osceola, and the 1968 St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Corning.³⁹ Projects such as these established the firm as the architectural powerhouse in the eastern part of Arkansas. Unfortunately, their success did not last. After ninety-three years of operations, the firm that Elmer Stuck founded closed its doors in mid-2019.

The addition that the Stuck firm designed for the Citizens Bank Building added an additional three floors to the top of the structure and followed in the footsteps of original design created by McAninch and Mahnker. The window placement and spacing was matched but the openings, and the floors as well, were made taller than in the previous section. The vertical sunshades were extended, and the porcelain enamel panels were matched with the existing. The only area where the Stuck firm did not adhere to the original design, aside from the floor height increase, was that they did not create a horizontal band of bricks across the top of the façade, which was present on the original building design. Instead, they extended the glass and spandrel panel elements up to the top of the building. They also added an entirely new element to the building, an abstracted Japanese “torii” that stood nearly two stories tall atop the mechanical penthouse on the roof of the building. According to former employees of the bank, it was chosen because of a mistaken belief that it symbolized prosperity, when it actually marks the boundary between the sacred and mundane. Despite this mistranslation, the “torii” symbol became the icon for Citizens Bank and was even used as the basis for the design of the Citizens Auto Bank of Jonesboro, which was completed in 1962 and stood at the southeast corner of W. Jackson Avenue and S. Church Street.⁴⁰

Upon the completion of the addition in 1961, the Citizens Bank Building was still the tallest habitable building in Jonesboro, a title it would hold until the completion of the Kays Hall Dormitory on the campus of Arkansas State College in 1965.⁴¹ However, despite it being surpassed in height, it still remained a local landmark in city. In 1969, Mercantile Bank constructed its own Modernist inspired building at the intersection of Huntington Avenue and Church Street, but that building was demolished in the 1990s to make way for a new municipal building, leaving the Citizens Bank Building as the sole reminder of the mid-century economic boom in the downtown area. Citizens Bank continued to serve the people of Jonesboro until 1992, when the banking institution merged with Boatmen’s Bank of St. Louis. The iconic torii symbols were removed from the building and replaced with Boatmen’s signage, and the vertical sunshades were removed to make exterior maintenance of the building easier and more cost-efficient. However, by 2000, the large building was deemed unnecessary and it was vacated by the company. After serving the community for forty-six years, the building sat empty. It has remained vacant since that time.⁴²

³⁹ Stuck Firm Selective Project List. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

⁴⁰ Citizens Auto Bank Post Card. Found at <https://www.cardcow.com/513406/citizens-auto-bank-jonesboro-arkansas/>. (accessed on 3 April 2020)

⁴¹ Dew, Lee A. *The ASU Story: A History of Arkansas State University 1909-1967*. Jonesboro: Arkansas State University Press, 1968. Pgs. 210-211.

⁴² Edmonds, Revis and Mark Christ. “Walks Through History: Tour of Historic Downtown Jonesboro.” Tour Script. Found in the file of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

For nearly sixty years, Citizens Bank served the people of Jonesboro, Arkansas. It was born out the ashes of the banking industry in northeast Arkansas in the years following the Great Depression and grew to become one of the largest banking institutions in the region. During the post-World War II years, the growth of the city necessitated that the bank also expand to meet the needs of its ever expanding customer base. The result was a four-story, International Style building that was completed in 1954 and designed by the Little Rock firm of McAninch and Mahnker. However, as the city and its population continued to grow, Citizens Bank soon needed more space. A three-story addition was designed by the local firm Elmer A. Stuck & Associates and was completed in 1961. The building stood as a landmark in the downtown not only because of its height, being the tallest building in the area, but also because of its unique Modernist design. Due to the fact that the Citizens Bank Building is the only remaining financial center that was constructed during the mid-century period in downtown Jonesboro, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the economics and commerce of Jonesboro during the post-World War II period. Additionally, as it is an excellent example of the International Style of architecture in the downtown Jonesboro area, in that it demonstrates the three defining principles of the movement, the Citizens Bank Building is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Place under **Criterion C** with **local significance**.

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15	Easting: 707263	Northing: 3968476
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Original Survey Lot 4, Eastern 18.2 feet of Lot 5

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundary includes all land historically associated with the property

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Mason Toms, National Register and Survey Program Coordinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: Arkansas zip code: 72201
e-mail: mason.toms@arkansas.gov
telephone: (501) 324-9192
date: 4/20/2020

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Citizens Bank Building

City or Vicinity: Jonesboro

County: Craighead

State: Arkansas

Photographer: J. Mason Toms

Date Photographed: April 2, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 28. South façade, looking north.
- 2 of 28. Southeast corner of the building, looking northwest.
- 3 of 28. Upper portion of east façade, looking west.
- 4 of 28. Lower portion of east façade, looking west.
- 5 of 28. Northeast corner of the building, looking southwest.
- 6 of 28. Eastern end of north façade, looking southwest.

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- 7 of 28. North façade, looking south.
- 8 of 28. Northwest corner of the building, looking southeast.
- 9 of 28. West façade, looking east.
- 10 of 28. Southwest corner of the building, looking northeast.
- 11 of 28. Detail photo of entry area on south façade, looking northeast.
- 12 of 28. Detail photo of entry overnight deposit drop box, looking west.
- 13 of 28. Detail photo of plaque on the lower right corner of south façade, looking north.
- 14 of 28. Interior photo of bank lobby, looking east.
- 15 of 28. Interior photo of bank lobby, looking north.
- 16 of 28. Interior photo of bank lobby, looking south.
- 17 of 28. Detail photo of bank lobby ceiling, looking north.
- 18 of 28. Interior photo of bank vault, looking north.
- 19 of 28. Interior photo of eastern bank lobby entrance, looking southeast.
- 20 of 28. Interior photo of main staircase on the ground level, looking northeast.
- 21 of 28. Interior photo of main staircase on the basement level, looking north.
- 22 of 28. Interior photo of third floor of the building, looking southeast.
- 23 of 28. Interior photo of the fourth floor of the building, looking southwest.
- 24 of 28. Interior photo of executive conference room on seventh floor, looking southwest.
- 25 of 28. Interior photo of executive conference room on seventh floor, looking east.
- 26 of 28. Interior photo of executive office on seventh floor, looking southwest.
- 27 of 28. Detail photo of original door and door pull on seventh floor, looking south.
- 28 of 28. Detail of Citizens Bank logo with "torii" symbol, looking east.

Additional Images

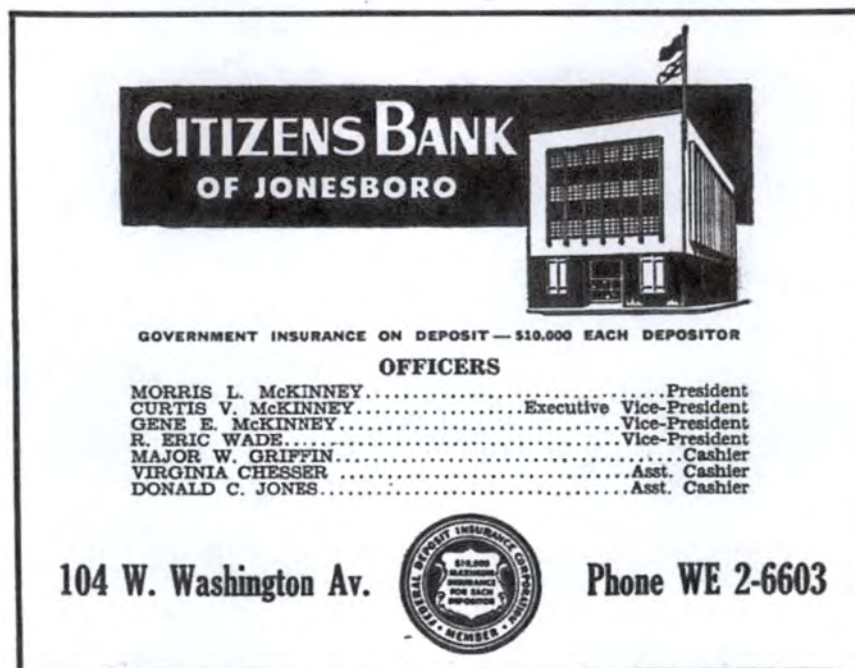
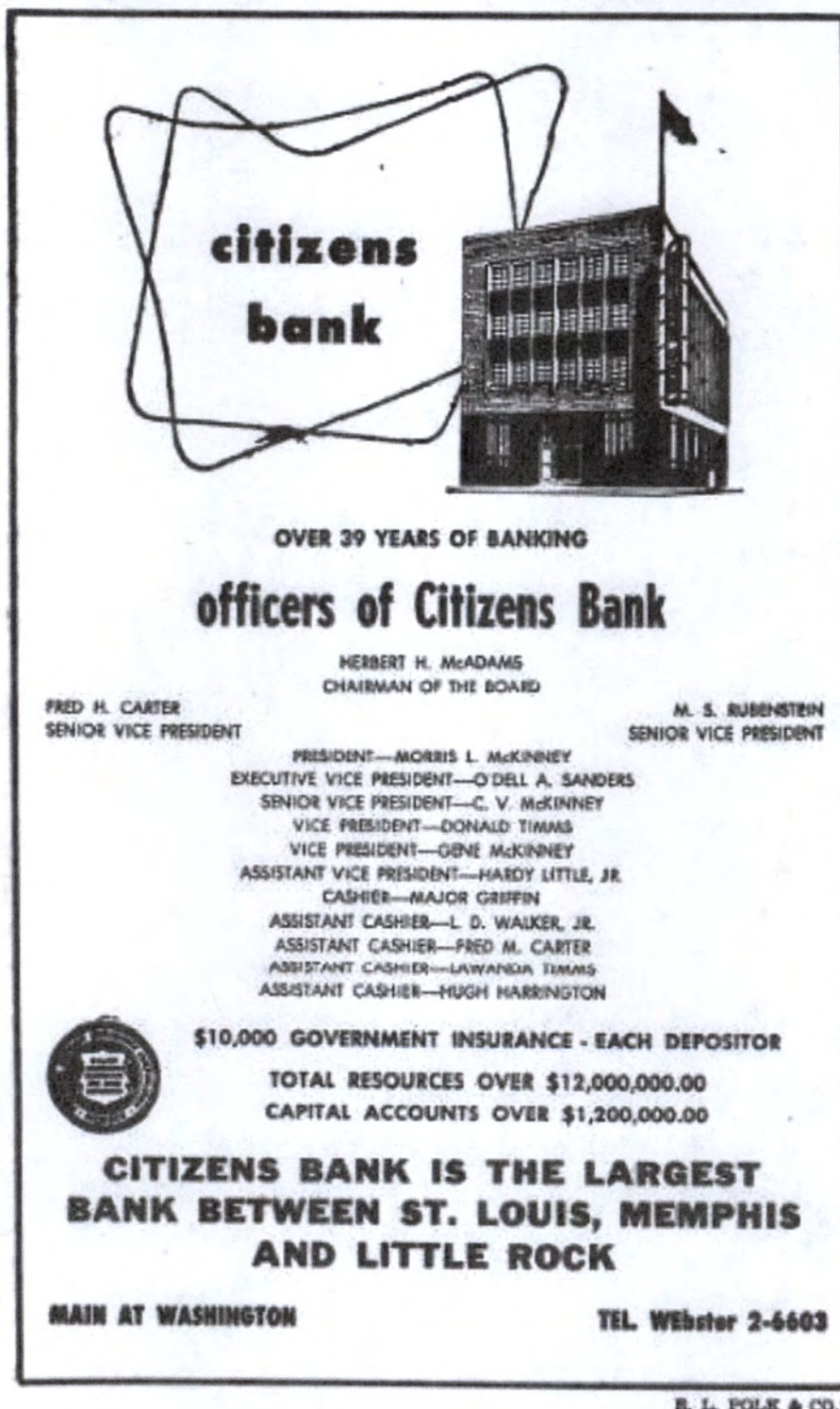


Figure 1. Citizens Bank advertisement from the 1956 Jonesboro City Directory.

Citizens Bank Building
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**citizens
bank**

OVER 39 YEARS OF BANKING

officers of Citizens Bank

HERBERT H. McADAMS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

FRED H. CARTER
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

M. S. RUBENSTEIN
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT—MORRIS L. McKINNEY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT—O'DELL A. SANDERS
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT—C. V. McKINNEY
VICE PRESIDENT—DONALD TIMMS
VICE PRESIDENT—GENE McKINNEY
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT—HARDY LITTLE, JR.
CASHIER—MAJOR GRIFFIN
ASSISTANT CASHIER—L. D. WALKER, JR.
ASSISTANT CASHIER—FRED M. CARTER
ASSISTANT CASHIER—LAWANDA TIMMS
ASSISTANT CASHIER—HUGH HARRINGTON

 \$10,000 GOVERNMENT INSURANCE - EACH DEPOSITOR
TOTAL RESOURCES OVER \$12,000,000.00
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS OVER \$1,200,000.00

**CITIZENS BANK IS THE LARGEST
BANK BETWEEN ST. LOUIS, MEMPHIS
AND LITTLE ROCK**

MAIN AT WASHINGTON TEL. WEBSTER 2-6603

R. L. POLK & CO.'S

Figure 2. Citizens Bank advertisement from the 1959 Jonesboro City Directory.

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Figure 3. Historic image of Citizens Bank, looking north down Main Street, ca. 1965.



Figure 4. Historic image of Citizens Auto-Bank at the corner of W. Jackson Ave. and S. Church St. with the main bank building in the background. Ca. 1970.

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Figure 5. Historic image of Citizens Bank, looking northwest, ca. 1970.

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



|-----250'-----|

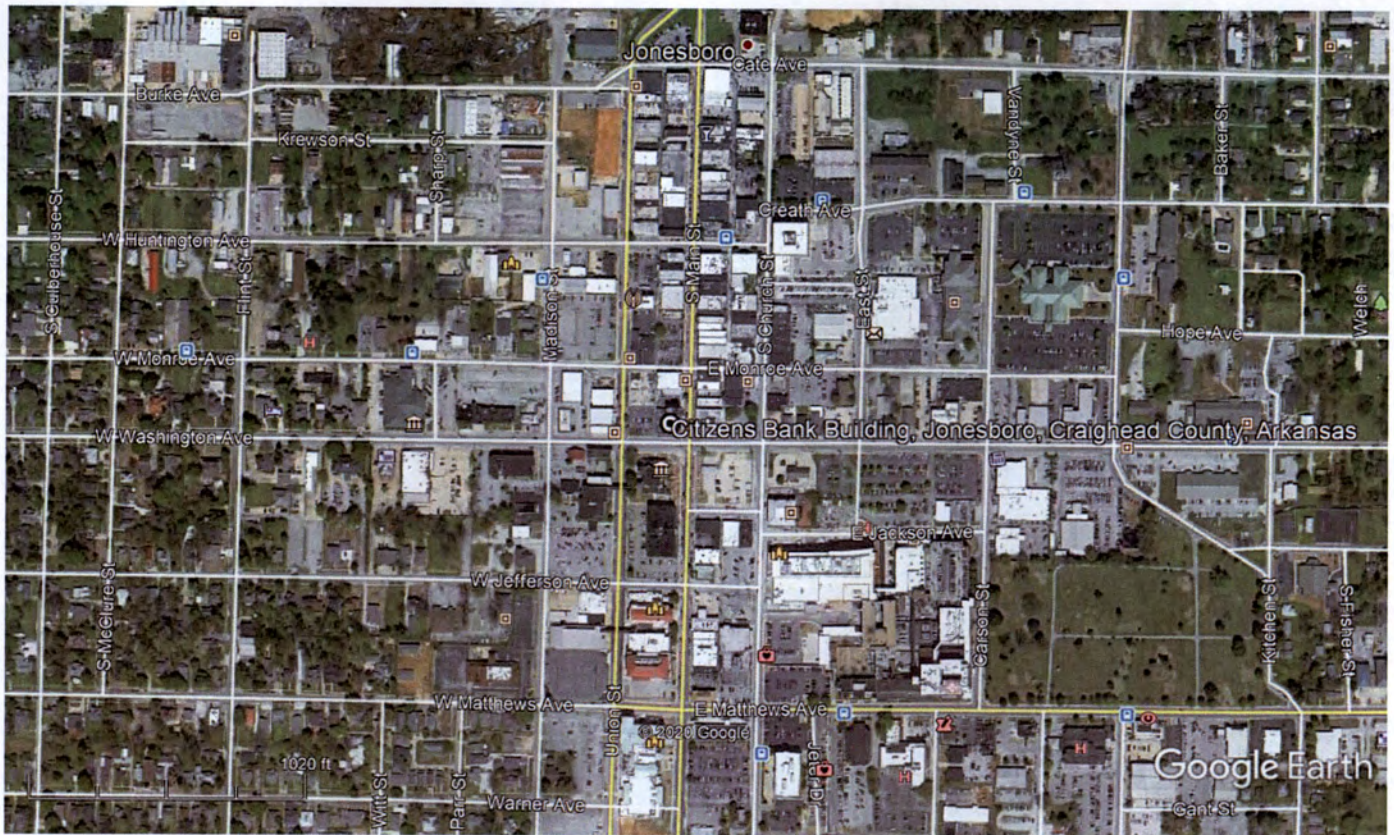
Citizens Bank Building

Jonesboro, Craighead County, AR

15 707263E 3968476N



North



|-----1020'-----|

Citizens Bank Building

Jonesboro, Craighead County, AR

15 707263E 3968476N



North



JERRY L. HALSEY, JR.
972.932.8000

FOR SALE

ICONIC
BUILDING IN
OPPORTUNITY
ZONE

HALSEY
THROASHER
HARPOLE
Real Estate Group

972.972.9191

DIA







JERRY L. HALSEY, JR.
Senior 972.870.8708

FOR SALE

ICONIC
BUILDING IN
OPPORTUNITY
ZONE

HALSEY
THRASHER
HARPOLE
Real Estate Group

972.9191

LAWN AID
Southern Lawn Care

















HISTORICAL MARKER
ARKANSAS STATE COLLEGE

ORGANIZED 1909



ARKANSAS STATE COLLEGE
CONDUCTED FIRST SESSION OF
SCHOOL ON SECOND FLOOR OF
A BRICK BUILDING FORMERLY
LOCATED ON THIS SITE.
196 STUDENTS ENROLLED

V.B. KAYS PRESIDENT

ERECTED 1963 BY
CITIZENS BANK
FOR CRAIGHEAD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY







