

= United States National Bank Building =

The United States National Bank Building is a building located in downtown Portland , Oregon , that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places . Designed by famed Portland architect A. E. Doyle in a Roman classical style , the four @-@ story building 's first section , facing Sixth Avenue , was completed and opened in 1917 . An extension westward to Broadway , approximately doubling its size , was constructed in 1925 . Since then the building has occupied one @-@ half of a city block . It features a four @-@ story @-@ high colonnade of Corinthian order columns at its eastern end , originally the principal façade , and extensive use of glazed terracotta . The interior is also decorated extensively with highly textured materials . The building was constructed for the United States National Bank of Portland (USNB) , which ultimately became part of U.S. Bancorp , whose retail banking division operates as U.S. Bank . In 2016 , almost 100 years after the building 's opening , it continues to serve as the bank 's main Portland branch .

= = History = =

The United States National Bank of Portland , the predecessor of present @-@ day U.S. Bancorp , was established in Portland in 1890 , opening for business in February 1891 . During the following three decades , the bank experienced significant growth . It weathered the Panic of 1893 better than many of its competitors , and later acquired some of the competing Portland banks , including the Ainsworth National Bank (in 1902) , the Wells Fargo Bank (in 1905) , and the Lumbermen 's National Bank (in 1917) . With the 1902 acquisition , U.S. National Bank moved its headquarters into a larger space formerly occupied by Ainsworth National , in the Ainsworth Building , then located at S.W. Third and Stark streets in downtown Portland . By the 1910s , the bank had outgrown its space . The firm purchased a quarter @-@ block of land at the northwest corner of Sixth and Stark streets in early 1916 and hired Portland architect A. E. Doyle to design a new , dedicated headquarters building .

Construction began in 1916 and was completed in 1917 ; the building opened to the public on July 30 , 1917 . Although the building now extends a full block along Stark Street , with entrances on both 6th Avenue and Broadway , it originally faced only 6th Street (now 6th Avenue) and extended only about halfway to Broadway .

In 1922 (another source says 1920) , the bank purchased the building that had occupied the quarter @-@ block immediately to the west from the Elks organization which would allow the 1917 bank building to be expanded west to Broadway . (The Elks were preparing to move to a new building elsewhere in downtown .) Originally , a new 24 @-@ story building was planned for the site , but the bank ultimately decided to expand its existing building , keeping the same design and height for the new section . Shortly after demolition of the old Elks Building in early 1924 , construction of the bank building 's expansion began . The new section opened in 1925 , doubling the building 's size and adding an entrance on Broadway . Doyle was hired again to oversee the expansion , which helped to ensure that that new section would replicate the style of the original section as much as possible , making the expanded building look as though it were built as a single structure , rather than in two stages separated by eight years . In the same year , U.S. National Bank of Portland acquired the Ladd & Tilton Bank , which had been established in 1859 , and was the first financial institution in the Pacific Northwest . This acquisition made USNB " the largest financial institution north of San Francisco and west of Minneapolis " .

In 1946 , U.S. National purchased the Wells Fargo Building (since 1922 known as the Porter Building) , a multistory office building located directly adjacent , immediately to the north , to expand its downtown Portland headquarters . United States National Bank of Portland changed its name to United States National Bank of Oregon in 1964 . By 1970 , the bank was operating 119 branches . At that time , it announced plans for another major expansion of its headquarters on property it had acquired diagonally across from the Wells Fargo Building . The entire oversize block , bounded by 5th and 6th Avenues , and Oak and Burnside Streets , had been acquired , its existing buildings to be razed and replaced by new U.S. National Bank buildings . The first of these was a seven @-@

story building (the U.S. Bank Plaza , at 5th & Oak) , completed in 1974 . But the headline structure was the U.S. Bancorp Tower , a 42 @-@ story building that opened in 1983 (having already been part of the bank 's long @-@ term site plans in 1970 , but ultimately delayed until the 1980s) . Notwithstanding this major expansion , the firm continued to own and use its landmark 1917 building , which company president LeRoy Staver , in a 1970 Oregonian article , called " a jewel of a banking property and one that will never be duplicated " .

In a 1979 article , The Oregonian wrote that , " The 1917 @-@ vintage U.S. National Bank , 321 S.W. Sixth Avenue , retains nearly all its original features , inside and out , a rare trait among Portland landmarks . " The U.S. National Bank of Oregon was honored by the Portland Historical Landmarks Commission in that year for its longstanding commitment to maintaining the building in nearly original condition .

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 , and was still serving as the bank 's main branch . Since the end of 1968 , United States National Bank of Oregon has been owned by the then @-@ newly formed holding company U.S. Bancorp , which provides consumer banking under the U.S. Bank name . Almost 100 years after its opening , the 1917 @-@ built , 1925 @-@ expanded original United States National Bank Building continues to serve as the main branch of U.S. Bank in Portland in 2016 .

= = Description = =

= = = Exterior = = =

The building is five stories tall including a mezzanine level and , after its 1925 expansion , occupies a 100 @-@ by @-@ 200 @-@ foot (30 m x 61 m) area , along the north side of SW Stark Street from Sixth Avenue to Broadway . The eastern façade , facing Sixth Avenue , features six freestanding Corinthian columns , each 54 ft (16 m) in height . These support a portico that is topped by a large and richly decorated Roman frieze , a cornice and balustrade . Decorations on the cornice include lion heads and palmettes . At the back of the portico , and behind the columns , are two Corinthian pilasters , at the far left and right ends of the façade . Between these are " five vertical bays separated by piers made of coursed , rusticated terra cotta . Window openings are set in cast @-@ bronze frames . " The five windows at the second @-@ floor level are topped by cast @-@ bronze segmental pediments . There are three entrance doorways in the three central bays , although originally there was only one . The central entrance features a pair of large bronze doors with highly decorated bas relief panels , surrounded by detailed terracotta , including a heraldic eagle in a pedimented cornice above the doorway . The bronze relief panels were cast in 1931 , replacing the 1917 door panels which had used replicas of early Greek , Roman and U.S. coins as a design motif . Designed by Avarð Fairbanks , they " depict noble concepts of American life , such as ' Knowledge and Service ' , ' Domestic Welfare ' , ' Progress through Direction ' , and so on . " Fairbanks also designed bronze relief panels for the building 's western façade , built in 1925 .

The overall exterior design was modeled closely on a 1904 bank building , the headquarters of the Knickerbocker Trust Company , in New York City .

The southern façade , along Stark Street , is 200 ft (61 m) long and features a line of 14 Corinthian pilasters . The 12 window bays on this side have frames made of cast iron . Above the pilasters and fourth @-@ floor windows are a cornice and balustrade with a design similar to that used at the eastern end . The Stark Street side includes one entrance , which was present from 1917 , located at what was then the far back corner of the building , but its position became approximately midway along the Stark Street side following the 1925 expansion .

At the building 's west end , constructed eight years later and facing Broadway , the façade is similar to the eastern one , but the main body of the building extends to the corners of the lot , and instead of a full @-@ width portico there is a recessed portico with only two columns in the center . Six pilasters line the eastern façade , three to each side of the columns , all topped by Corinthian capitals , the same as on the building 's other two exposed sides . Another difference from the

eastern façade is that , on the western façade , " United States National Bank " is inscribed in the central section of the frieze , in place of the rinceau decoration there at the building 's opposite end . Ornamental bronze lanterns flank the central entrance , which features bas relief panels cast in bronze in 1926 ? 27 and designed by Avarð Fairbanks . The panels at the western entrance " depict pivotal events in the historical development of the Columbia Basin " .

= = = Interior = = =

The ground floor holds the main banking room (the Portland branch of U.S. Bank) , and a grand room measuring 100 by 40 feet (30 m × 12 m) with 30 @-@ foot (9 m) ceilings . The interior is extensively decorated with highly textured materials . Square columns of polished marble topped by Corinthian capitals that incorporate an eagle motif line all four sides of the main public space . The coffered ceiling is intricately detailed . The marble floor is patterned , and the teller windows are divided by Hauteville @-@ marble pillars detailed with bas reliefs . A recessed mezzanine floor runs along the north and south sides , behind the columns . The bank vaults are in the basement , where the public space also has a marble floor .

The third and fourth floors are office space , centered around a courtyard . A remodeling of the fourth @-@ floor offices in 1948 , based on designs by Pietro Belluschi , incorporated Oregon myrtle in the paneling and custom furnishings . The bank 's board room , located on the third floor , includes a marble fireplace and stained glass windows by the noted Portland company , Povey Brothers Studio . The room is 55 ft × 30 ft (16 @.@ 8 m × 9 @.@ 1 m) . Its walls are covered in dark walnut . Ornamental lighting fixtures with brass wall mountings adorn the east and west ends of the room , and a bronze ring chandelier hangs above the center .

= = Immediate surroundings = =

At its east end , the United States National Bank Building stands directly across 6th Avenue from another A. E. Doyle @-@ designed bank building , the Bank of California Building , of 1925 . The aforementioned building 's Italianate style contrasts sharply with the U.S. National Bank Building 's classical design . The northbound Portland Transit Mall passes in front of the building 's east end , and during the mall 's construction in 1976 ? 77 the plain concrete sidewalk there was resurfaced in brick , and street trees were added . MAX light rail trains have passed in front of the building 's east end on 6th Avenue since 2009 , following a 2007 ? 08 rebuilding of the transit mall .

= = = General = = =

Tess , John M. (December 1985) . " National Register of Historic Places Inventory ? Nomination Form : United States National Bank Building " (PDF) . National Park Service . Retrieved 2016 @-@ 04 @-@ 25 .

= = = Specific = = =