

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Bank of Avilla

Other names/site number United States Post Office, Avilla, MO

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 205 Greenfield Street

N/A	not for publication
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City or town Avilla

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County Jasper Code 097 Zip code 64859

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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

B. K. A. DEPUTY SHPO 1-26-22
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
 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

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

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property

Jasper County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Financial Institution

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government/Post Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: One-part commercial block

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Synthetics: Plastic

other: _____

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property

Jasper County, Missouri
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.

Areas of Significance

Commerce

Period of Significance

1915-1944

Significant Dates

1915

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

State Historical Society of Missouri Research

Name of repository: **Center**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property

Jasper County, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 37.1959057 -94.1299274 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____ 3 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 _____ 4 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy L. Young; Edited by Michelle Diedrich, MO SHPO

organization N/A date September 1, 2021

street & number 8794 County Road 80 telephone 417-358-2724

city or town Reeds State MO zip code 64859

e-mail avillapo@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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 18 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.

Bank of Avilla

Name of Property

Jasper County, Missouri

County and State

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 doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Bank of Avilla**

City or Vicinity: **Avilla**

County: **Jasper**

State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Sharon Wingert**

Date

Photographed: **August 17, 2021**

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

- 1 of # 13 Clipped corner of southerly entrance, photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of # 13 South and east facades and clipped corner, photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of # 13 South facade of building and clipped corner, photographer facing northerly.
- 4 of # 13 East facade of building, photographer facing westerly.
- 5 of # 13 West side of building, photographer facing easterly.
- 6 of # 13 North side of building, photographer facing south.
- 7 of # 13 North lobby wall inside building, photographer facing northeasterly.
- 8 of # 13 West lobby wall inside building, photographer facing west.
- 9 of # 13 Transom window above front door inside building, photographer facing southerly.
- 10 of # 13 Close up photo of exterior south windows, photographer facing north.
- 11 of # 13 Southerly lobby wall inside building, photographer facing southerly.
- 12 of # 13 Old bank vault inside private USPS working area, photographer facing north.
- 13 of # 13 Upper portion of north lobby wall, photographer facing northerly.

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure A: Current Floor Plan

Figure B: Photo Map

Figure C: Site Map

Figure D: Old photo of Ivy and Mary Russell in front of bank safe and vault

Figure E: Old photo of Ivy and Mary Russell behind bank teller window

Figure F: Old photo of exterior of Bank of Avilla

Figure G: Photo of back yard of building showing propane tank and satellite dish

Figure H: Context Map

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property Jasper County, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Summary

Constructed in 1914, the Bank of Avilla building is located at 205 Greenfield Street in Avilla, Jasper County, Missouri. The builder is unknown. It is a brick one-part commercial block building with a flat roof that measures twenty-five by forty foot. It sits at the intersection of Greenfield and Lamar Streets near the center of the small town of Avilla, Jasper County, Missouri. (Photo 2)

The main entrance is located in the clipped southeast corner of the building. (Photo 1) The property's most striking exterior feature is the elaborate classical door surround. The south and east elevations include two 1/1 wooden windows with non-historic metal hoods. The interior has been somewhat altered since the bank was converted into a post office in 1952. However, it still retains the vault, shelving, part of the lobby wall and lobby area. Other than some interior changes the building retains the majority of its historic character. (Figure F)

Setting

The former Bank of Avilla/Post Office sits in a primarily residential area now with homes on both east and west sides. There is a small Telephone Company office to the north. A gazebo in the town park and a building with murals around all sides sit to the south. Sidewalks flank the south and east sides and are historically associated with the former bank and with the property lines. (Figure C) The bank abuts the sidewalks on the south and east. A strip of grassy lawn is to the west. A larger grassy lawn is to the north behind the building and features a small satellite dish and propane tank. (Figure G).

Exterior Description

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Bank of Avilla is a brick one-part commercial block building with a flat roof. The main entrance is located on the southeast corner (Photo 2). The frontispiece on the clipped corner entrance of the former bank shows the Tuscan order of the Classical style of architecture with its plain stone columns, entablature, and unadorned capitals (Photo 1). Below the cornice of the pediment is inscribed "1915". The frieze has engraved "Bank of Avilla" according to the former owner of the building.¹ This engraving is currently covered by the U.S. Post Office sign. An original wood three pane transom window sits above the front door. The metal front doors and 1/1 sidelight are non-historic. The commercial style is also reflected in its flat roof and little adornment other than what is shown on the frontispiece, as described above. There is limestone coping at the roofline. A new TPO (Thermoplastic Polyolefin) roof was added in 2019. The south (Photo 3) and east facades (Photo 4) of the building each feature two 1/1 double hung windows that are the original wood other than a wooden sash recently repaired with wood to match the original. The windows feature the original stone sills and lintels and have non-historic metal hoods. (Photo 10) The windows on the south façade have the wording "Post Office Avilla, Mo" painted above the windows on the lintel. The northern window on the east facade has a heavy screen placed over it, but the window is still in place and the screen is removable. (Photo 4) The west side of the building is blind and shows a stepped roof line and features the original chimney. There is a small air conditioning unit on this elevation. (Photo 5) The north side of the building has only a metal back door, covered with a heavy screen, for a private entrance. (Photo 6). A plain lunette and relieving arch rest above the back door and the transom has been infilled.

¹ Fortner, Jimmie, personal interview, Carthage, Mo., May 1, 2007.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property Jasper County, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Dr. S.C. Cordonnier, one of the Directors of the former Bank moved to Carthage, Missouri in the 1930's. The locals missed having a doctor, so the Board of the Bank had a twelve by thirty-two foot addition built on to the west side of the bank building so the Doctor could be in town one or two days a week.² Dr. Cordonnier died May 16, 1939. The addition was removed in the 1980's, leaving the bank building standing as it was originally built.

Interior Description

The entrance leads to a small lobby in the southeast corner, which is the only public space in the building. (Figure A). As shown in an old photo (Figure E) there was originally a cashier's window in the bank's lobby. After five bank robberies, which are described later in the nomination, bullet proof glass fixtures were installed in 1932.³ Presently in the public lobby area on the north wall there are two teller type windows with bars and windows that pull down, flanked by smaller stationary windows and a small stationary window above each teller window. (Photo 7) Two large textured stationary glass windows are on the same wall to the east. Part of the north lower lobby wall looks like the lobby wall in the old photo so it is possible that part of the original wall was retained. (Figure E). One teller-type window has been made handicap accessible. Newer post office boxes have been installed on the lobby west wall, (Photo 8) but the original post office boxes which feature combination locks are in possession of the building's current owner. There is also an older wooden door in the west wall. On the upper portions of the walls on the north and west sides are iron bars. (Photo 13)

² Ullom, Lillian, personal interview, Reeds, Mo., April 1, 2007.

³ *The Jasper County News*, Untitled, October 20, 1932, p. 1, Newspapers.com/image/581190459, March 29, 2021.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property Jasper County, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

When the Post Office lobby transitioned to a 24 hour service about the year 2012, plywood was installed behind the bars by the Postal Service as a security requirement. The southerly clipped corner portion of the interior lobby wall of the building has a window to one side of the entrance door and an original three-light transom window above the door. The original hardware for the transom window is attached. (Photo 9). There are also curved corners on the interior walls at the points of the clipped exterior corners of the building. (Photo 11). Only one curved corner is shown as one is in the area that was not allowed to be photographed. Going through the door on the west side of the lobby, one enters the main office. The main post office work area is open. In the northwest corner is the original bank vault and vault doors (Photo 12 and Figure D) with the James Baumann Safe Co., St. Louis, Missouri inscription and decoration in the corners of the vault door. "Bank of Avilla" is written in gold atop the vault door, though it is hard to see in the photo. The shelves from the former bank are still intact in the vault. Northeast of the main office area is an entryway to a former meeting room and a bathroom, which was added at some point. The former meeting room is used for storage. Postal privacy requirements prevented photography in the open office areas, so as not to show any mail. Only the vault photo was allowed. (Photo 12).

Integrity

A new flat TPO (Thermoplastic Polyolefin) roof was installed in December 2019, maintaining the same look as before. The original brick on the building has only been painted a brick red color and tuck pointed as needed. Windows are the original wood and have only been repaired with wood and painted. Most of the interior moldings are original wood except for in the lobby. There have been some alterations to the North and West Lobby walls by the US Postal Service. A bathroom was installed but the date is unknown. The former meeting

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

room dates from the period of significance. The vault and lobby space retain their historic plans. The interior doors are either original or historic.

The Bank of Avilla building has retained integrity and charm. As a testament to its cultural significance a \$400.00 Preservation Award was given to the owners in 2014 by the Rt. 66 Association⁴ and was used for tuck pointing to preserve the brick walls.

⁴ Glenda Pike, "2014 Preservation Awards", *Show Me Route 66 Magazine*, Vol. 24, No. 4, 2014, 8.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property Jasper County, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Summary

The Bank of Avilla, 205 Greenfield Street, Avilla, Jasper County, Missouri is locally significant under Criterion A: Commerce for serving the area's farmers, townspeople, and merchants from 1915 to 1944. It was the only bank in the small town and played an important role in the development of the town and the area, being about 12 miles from Carthage and about 8 miles from Reeds and LaRussell. Its interesting history of bank robberies serves as a record of the Gangster Era during the 1920's and 1930's. After its closing, the United States Postal Service moved into the building in 1952, again serving the town of Avilla and the area for 69 years plus, at present. The period of significance reflects the bank's operation from 1915-1944.

Narrative

Avilla, Missouri, the fourth-oldest village in Jasper County, Missouri was platted in 1858. It sat in the midst of a rich farming district and most families outside of town made their living by crop farming and stock production. There were also strawberries raised in the area. In 1874 Avilla consisted of a few stores, a hotel, two churches and a school. The population then was about 500.⁵ But by the 1930's and for most of its history the population has fluctuated between 150 and 200 people. At the time of the operation of the Bank of Avilla the town had at least one hotel, general and grocery stores, a farm implement dealership, barber shop, eating establishments, three churches, a school, doctor's office, post office, Lodge

⁵ Robert Allen Campbell, *Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri*, (St. Louis, Mo.: Robert Allen Campbell, 1874) 275.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Hall, blacksmith, and then a filling station. It was also home base to a small traveling carnival⁶.

Commercial Significance of the Bank of Avilla

The Bank of Avilla was the only bank ever in the small town. It was organized on September 18, 1914, and built by the end of the year, opening in January 1915. Bank examiners notes, minutes, and reports to the Board of the Bank showed a consistently growing and profitable enterprise. From resources of about \$16,000.00 early in 1915, the bank grew to almost \$75,000.00 in resources in August 1923.⁷ Earnings became less stable, but the bank never showed a net annual loss during the period 1923-1929. According to reports filed with Missouri's Finance Department, the Bank of Avilla had resources of \$75,089.04 in 1925, \$85,539.94 in 1926, and \$76,325.79 in 1927. Most loans were farm related and included loans on land and chattel loans on cattle, horses, mules, cows, pigs, sheep, crops, fertilizer and farm machinery. There are also mentions in a letter to the bank examiner dated May 1, 1926 of a loan for an individual who had a threshing business and also a loan to an oil truck owner who had a contract to furnish twenty-one trucks for highway work in addition to his regular oil truck run.⁸

A study done by the Red Cross on January 13, 1921, indicated that one-third of Avilla students went to other towns to High School.⁹ On May 1, 1926 the Board subscribed \$100.00 for organizing a Job Plan High School in Avilla, proving their commitment to the Avilla community. In 1928 the Board quit

⁶ Lloyd Burgi, personal interview, Reeds, Mo., June 15, 2021.

⁷ Bank of Avilla (Avilla, Mo.) Minute book, 1914-1924, R735, The State Historical Society of Missouri, Manuscript Collection.

⁸ Bank of Avilla (Avilla, Mo.) Record book, 1923-1944, R691, The State Historical Society of Missouri, Manuscript Collection.

⁹ Red Cross Study of Avilla and Community, R361.7, January 13, 1921, Powers Museum

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

making loans outside of regular patrons. In 1930 the Bank hypothecated \$2,000.00 in bonds in order to be on par list of the Federal Reserve Bank.¹⁰

Lillian Ullom, daughter of Ivy Russell, former cashier of the bank stated that when President Roosevelt closed the banks during the Depression, Russell would open the bank for an hour each afternoon just to make change for the local merchants.¹¹ The Bank of Avilla was eventually allowed to reopen without restrictions.¹² An article from the *Carthage Evening Press* on October 20, 1939 on the Bank of Avilla's Silver Anniversary notes,

Over the period of twenty-five years, times, good and bad, war, drouths [sic], pestilence, business recessions, periods of high prices and inflation, unemployment and depressions, our bank, with a most humble beginning, has withstood all these conditions and through the confidence of the people in the community has bank with more than one hundred twenty thousand dollars in total resources, offering the community an efficient banking service.¹³

A Condensed Official Statement of the Bank of Avilla that appeared in the *Joplin Globe* on July 8, 1944, noted the following resources on June 30 of each of the following years; 1940-\$116,217.96, 1941-\$134,332.13, 1942-\$177,207.08, 1943-\$299,646.41, 1944-\$375,559.59.¹⁴ After 25 years of association with the Bank of Avilla, Ivy E. Russell, who was the majority stockholder and cashier, sold his interest in the Bank to C.H. Goppert of the

¹⁰ Bank of Avilla (Avilla, Mo.) Minute book, 1923-1944, R691, State Historical Society of Missouri, Manuscript Collection.

¹¹ Lillian Ullom, personal interview, Reeds, Mo., April 1, 2007.

¹² "Most Missouri Banks Reopen for Business", *The Springfield Leader*, March 15, 1933, 6.

¹³ "Bank Organized 25 Years", *The Carthage Evening Press*, October 20, 1939, 6.

¹⁴ "Condensed Official Statement of the Bank of Avilla", *Joplin Globe*, July 8, 1944, 5.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property Jasper County, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

People's Bank of Kansas City. Having decided to run for a county office, Russell terminated his service with the Bank on August 31, 1944.¹⁵ The *Lockwood Luminary* reported the sale of the Bank of Avilla to the Bank of Carthage on November 16, 1944 with deposits of \$390,000.00 and describing it as one of the sturdiest rural banks of the country, coming through the depression with flying colors, one of the few strictly country banks to do so.¹⁶

The Bank served the Avilla area not only as a lending institution but as a place to pay property taxes. The County Collector brought his books to rural areas such as the bank, so citizens would not have to travel the twelve mile distance to Carthage to pay their taxes.¹⁷ This was the custom for a period during the twenties. It also supported social functions as a place to buy tickets to events like the Ozark State Fair¹⁸ and the Southwest Missouri Fair at Carthage, Mo.¹⁹

History of the Bank of Avilla

Samuel Salyer was the first cashier of the Bank. Ivy E. Russell became the cashier in 1919.²⁰ The colorful history of the Bank of Avilla includes five bank robberies between 1920 and 1939. A September 23, 1920 *Carthage Press* account describes the first robbery by a man named Robinson in the amount of \$1,600.00. After a three hour pursuit Red Oak, Mo. citizens caught the robber.²¹

¹⁵ "Ivy E. Russell Sells Stock in Avilla Bank", *Joplin Globe*, August 6, 1944, 22.

¹⁶ "Classified Department", *Lockwood Luminary*, November 16, 1944, 5.

¹⁷ "Tax Books Will Be Taken Over County", *Joplin Globe*, September 27, 1923, 3.

¹⁸ "\$2,000.00 Given Away", *The Joplin Globe*, July 21, 1929, 27.

¹⁹ "Fair Week", *The Joplin Globe*, July 22, 1923, 9.

²⁰ Bank of Avilla (Avilla, Mo.) Minute book, 1914-1924, R735, The State Historical Society of Missouri, Manuscript Collection.

²¹ "Avilla Bank is Robbed; Posse Captures Bandit", *The Carthage Evening Press*, September 23, 1920, 1.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The second robbery was reported in the *Carthage Evening Press* on February 20, 1925. A gang estimated at six men worked for one and one-half hours first attempting unsuccessfully to dig under the bank wall to the vault and then trying to load the bank safe onto a truck. Carthage, Missouri officers arrived on the scene and the bandits fled. The robbers had obtained about \$15.00 in small change that was outside the safe. It was reported that there was about \$1,800.00 in the safe that remained at the scene.²²

The third robbery, as told in the *Carthage Evening Press* on August 14, 1931, relates how the bank safe weighing 3,200 pounds was hauled off successfully. This time the safe was loaded on a truck with a winch shortly before daybreak. Three Springfield, Missouri officers who answered the burglary call found the truck broken down two and one-half miles east of Halltown, Missouri. After a chase, area farmers were responsible for capturing the burglars.²³ The robbers charged were members of the Bruton-Pendleton Gang.²⁴

The *Carthage Evening Press* account of robbery number four, dated May 19, 1932, and the only successful robbery up to this time, cited that a man held up and robbed the Bank of Avilla of \$3,000.00 in the afternoon. The cashier was taken hostage, bound and thrown out of the car near a farm west and north of Avilla.²⁵ This robbery was described in Lisa Livingston-Martin's book *Missouri's Wicked Route 66*, along with a picture of the former Bank of

²² "6 Avilla Bank Robbers Flee Before Officers", *The Carthage Evening Press* February 20, 1925, 1.

²³ "Avilla Bank Safe Hauled Off; 3 Held After Battle", *The Carthage Evening Press*, August 14, 1931, 1.

²⁴ "Louisiana Term of 9-14 Years for Beryl Davis", *Springfield Leader Press* December 12, 1934, 2.

²⁵ "Avilla Bank Is Robbed of \$3,000.00 This Afternoon", *The Carthage Evening Press*, May 19, 1932, 1.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property Jasper County, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Avilla.²⁶ Major Taylor of the notorious Irish O'Malley Gang was convicted of this robbery and the Bank of Jasper, Missouri robbery. He received a seventy-five year sentence for robberies of the two banks.²⁷

Although it did not receive the same degree of local newspaper coverage, the last Bank of Avilla robbery was reported in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* on January 15, 1939 in connection with robberies of nine Post Offices and three automobile thefts in Missouri and Oklahoma.²⁸ Another account in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on May 6, 1939 reported that the FBI wanted the four robbers for 100 separate crimes, including eleven bank and post office robberies.²⁹

The Bank of Avilla was sold in November of 1944 to the Bank of Carthage and closed. The United States Postal Service began leasing the building in 1952, continuing to serve the citizens of Avilla, the surrounding area and those who travel the historic Route 66. An article in the *Carthage Press* in 1976 written by Marvin VanGilder highlighted and pictured the Bank/Post Office and described the Bank of Avilla building as an "impressive structure and a successful bank" as part of a series of articles about the town of Avilla on its 100th Anniversary.³⁰ The Post Office survived an attempted closure by the Postal Service in 2011 when citizens in the community and the Rt. 66

²⁶ Lisa Livingston-Martin, *Missouri's Wicked Route 66*, (Charleston: The History Press, 2013), 59-60.

²⁷ R.D. Morgan, *Irish O'Malley & the Ozark Mountain Boys*, (Stillwater: New Forums Press, Inc., 2011), 228-229.

²⁸ "Admits Nine Robberies", *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, January 15, 1939, 6.

²⁹ "4 Wanted for 100 Crimes, Judge Denies Extradition", *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 6, 1939, 2.

³⁰ "Heritage of Avilla, Much Growth Noted During Reconstruction", *Carthage Press*, June 17, 1976.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Association of Missouri mounted a campaign to keep the Post Office open.³¹ The Post Office continues to operate four hours per day at this time.

The Bank with its preserved architecture is pictured in a book on Jasper County by Marvin VanGilder.³² Jim Hinckley featured a full size color picture of the former bank and referred to it in one of his books as the "most notable" structure in Avilla.³³ Mr. Hinckley also talked about the Bank of Avilla/Post Office as being "most notable" in another book and included a building photo.³⁴

The owners of the building received a \$400.00 preservation award in 2014 from the Route 66 Association of Missouri for their continuous interest in maintaining the historic building for viable community use by not only Avilla residents but also the people traveling the Missouri Historic Route 66 Byway. The building was also referred to as a cultural icon in the article.³⁵ The Bank of Avilla/Post Office is also featured in a *Route 66 Magazine* article about memories of Route 66,³⁶ and in an article on the ghost town of Avilla.³⁷

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Bank of Avilla opened in 1915 and served the community and area well for almost 30 years making land and chattel loans and loans to merchants, farmers and townspeople, surviving the Great Depression

³¹ Glenda Pike, "2014 Preservation Awards", *Show Me Route 66 Magazine*, Vol.24, No.4, 2014, 8-9.

³² Marvin VanGilder, *Jasper County, The First Two Hundred Years*, (n.p.: Marvin L. VanGilder and the Jasper County Commission, 1995), 207.

³³ Jim Hinckley, *Ghost Towns Of Route 66*, (Minneapolis: Voyageur Press, an imprint of MBI Publishing Company, 2011), 46-49.

³⁴ Hinckley, *The Route 66 Encyclopedia*, (Minneapolis: Voyageur Press, an imprint of Quarto Group, 2012), 25-27.

³⁵ Pike, "2014 Preservation Awards", *Show Me Route 66 Magazine*, 8,9

³⁶ Nancy Kilpatrick Young, "Avilla Route 66 Recollections", *Show Me Route 66 Magazine*, Vol.21, No.1, 2011, 25-26.

³⁷ Cheryl Eichar Jett, "The Ghost Town of Avilla, Missouri; Civil War, Route 66, the Death Tree and the Shadow People", *Show Me Route 66 Magazine*, Vol.27, No.4, 2017, 11.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

and multiple bank robberies. It is commercially significant to the community as it was the only bank in the small town and was relied upon by many in Avilla and the surrounding area until its closure in 1944. While this nomination does not pursue Criterion C: Architecture, the bank of Avilla is an attractive property, being the only brick building of its age surviving in the community. It has caught the eye of authors and travelers of Route 66.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 16

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property Jasper County, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Verbal Boundary Description:

All of Lot One in Block Six in the Original town of Avilla, Jasper County, Missouri, except the North Sixty feet thereof. (Figure C)

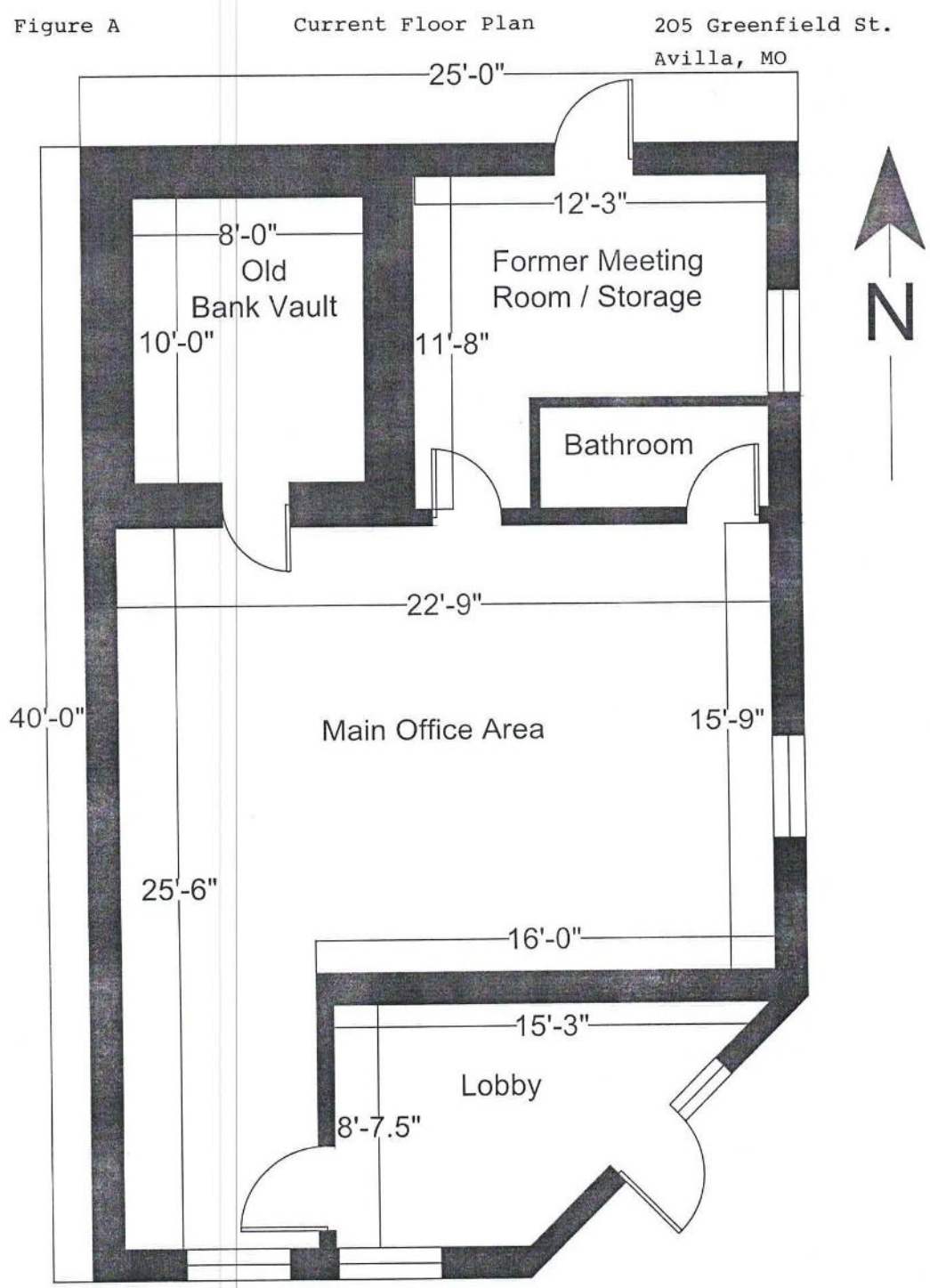
Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the nominated property include the parcel of land historically associated with the resource.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 17

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

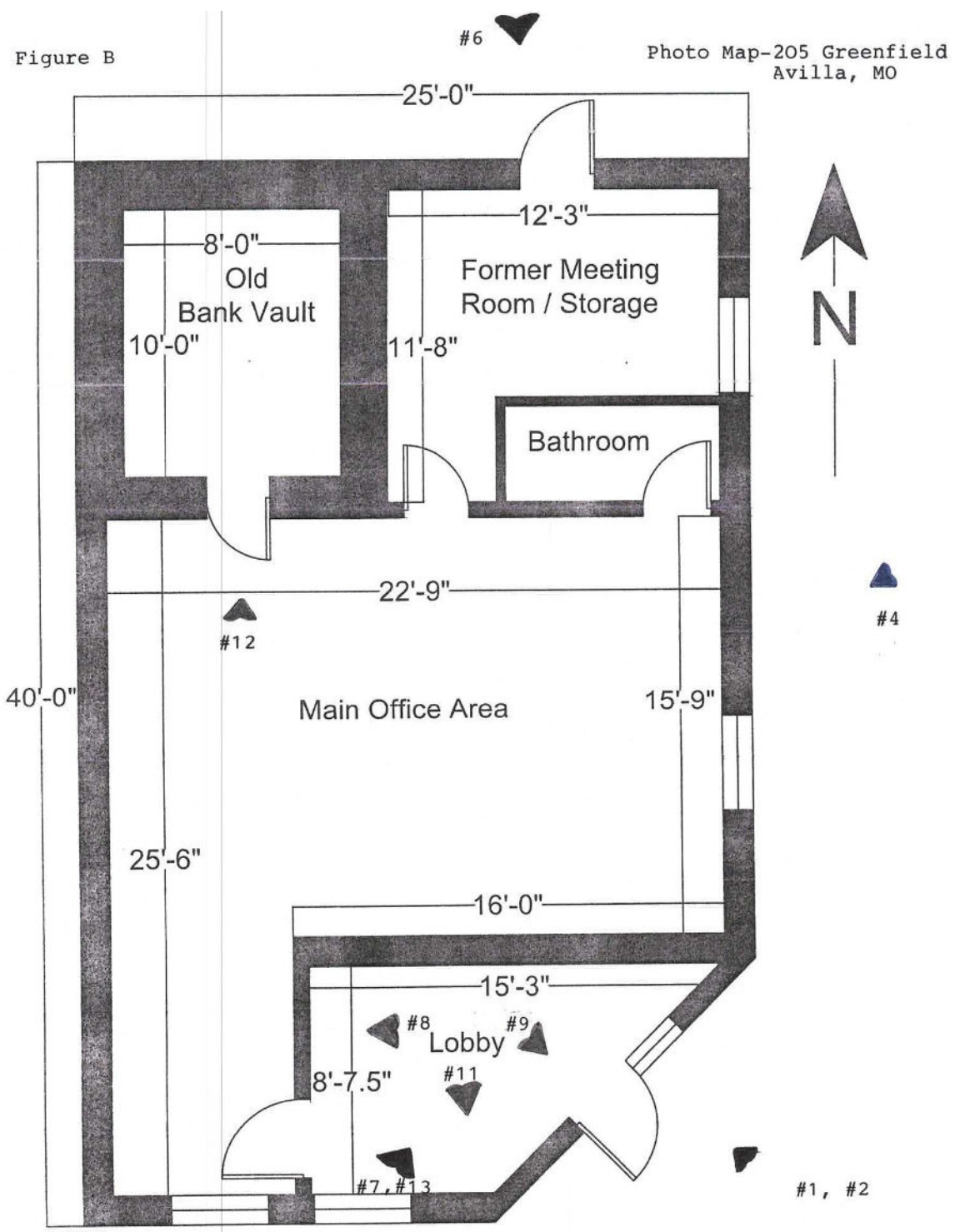


Former Bank of Avilla, Now Avilla Post Office Not To Scale

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 18

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Former Bank of Avilla, Now Avilla Post Office Not To Scale

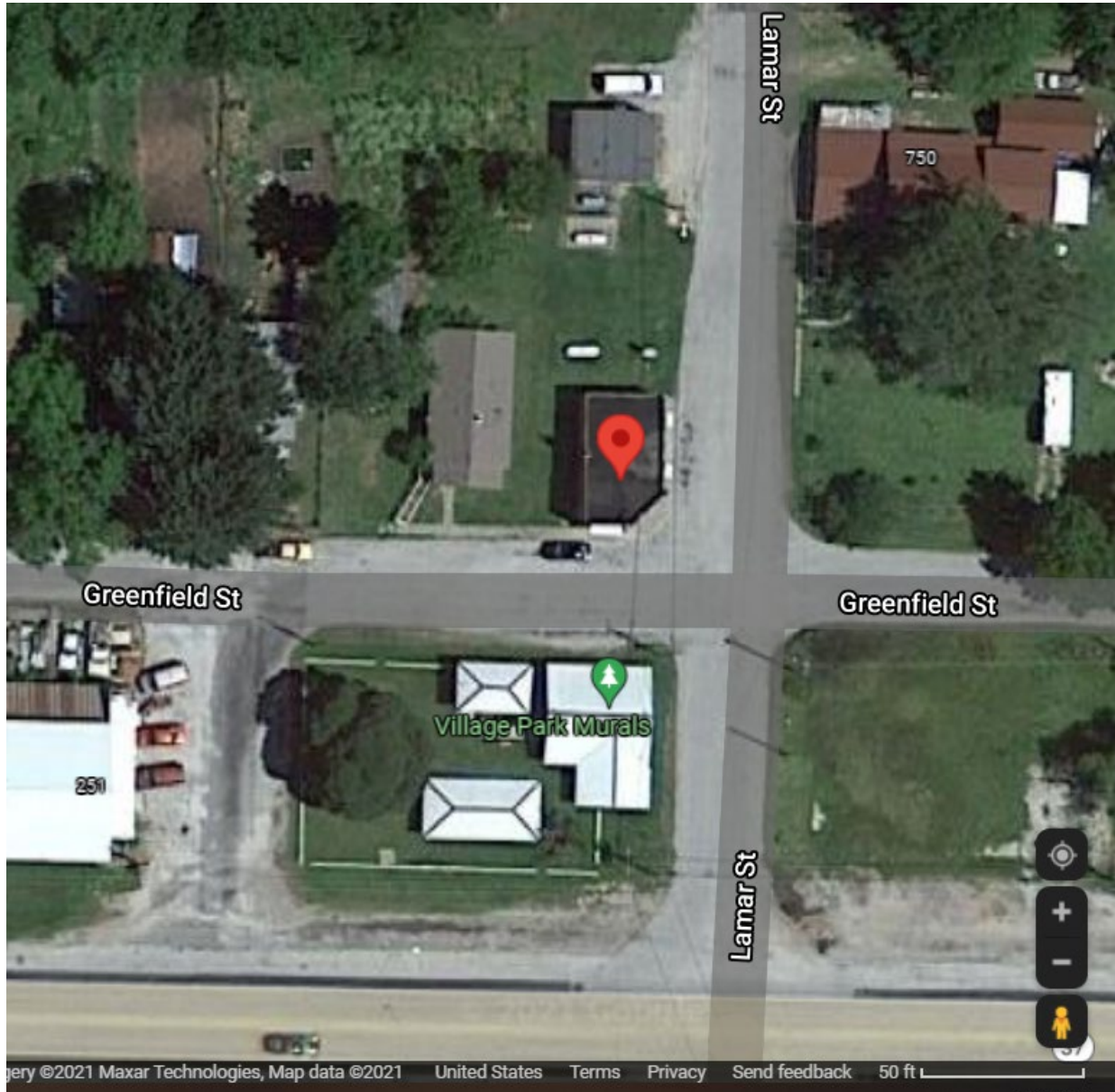
#3, #10

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 19

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure C Site Map 37.1959057 -94.1299274 Bank of Avilla indicated by red marker. North is up. Source: Google Maps



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 20

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure D



Ivy & Mary Russell
Safe - Bank
of Avilla

Figure E



Mary & Ivy Russell
Bank of Avilla, MO.

Figure F



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 21

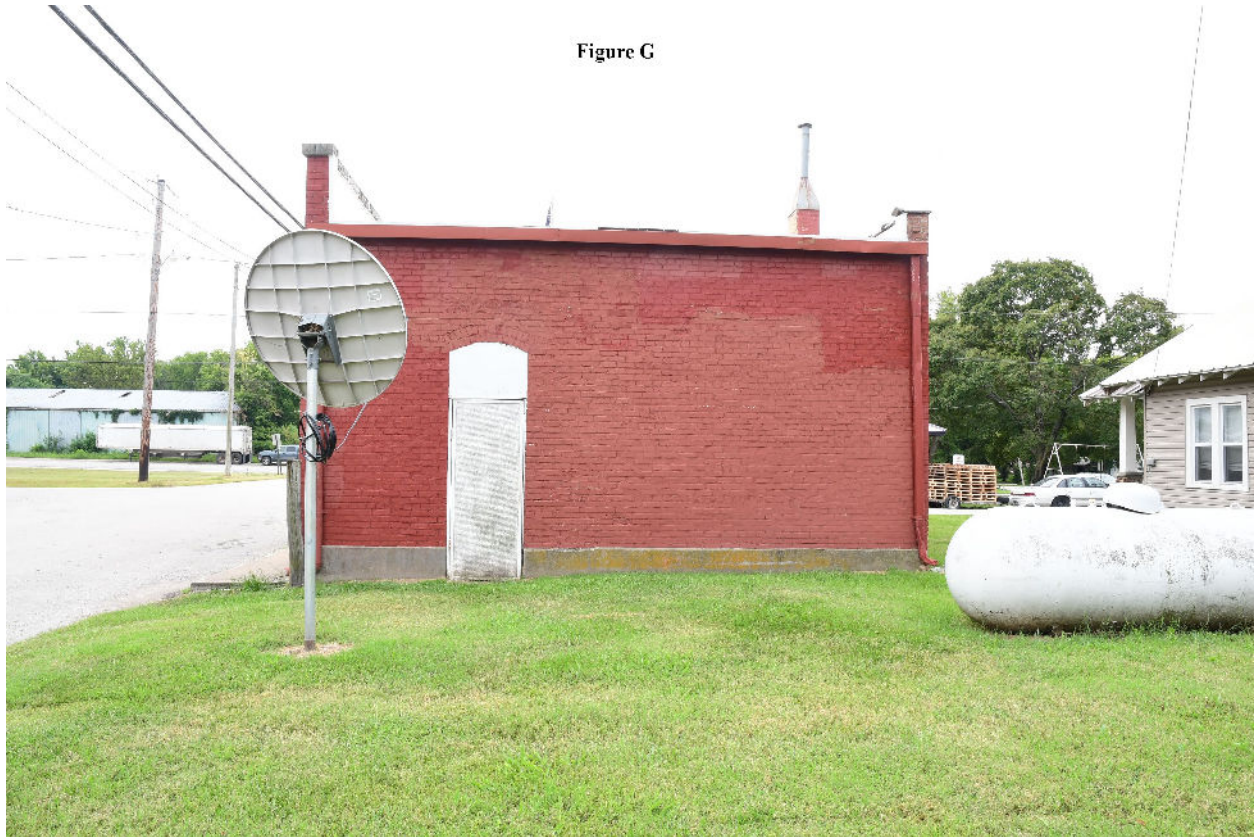
Bank of Avilla

Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

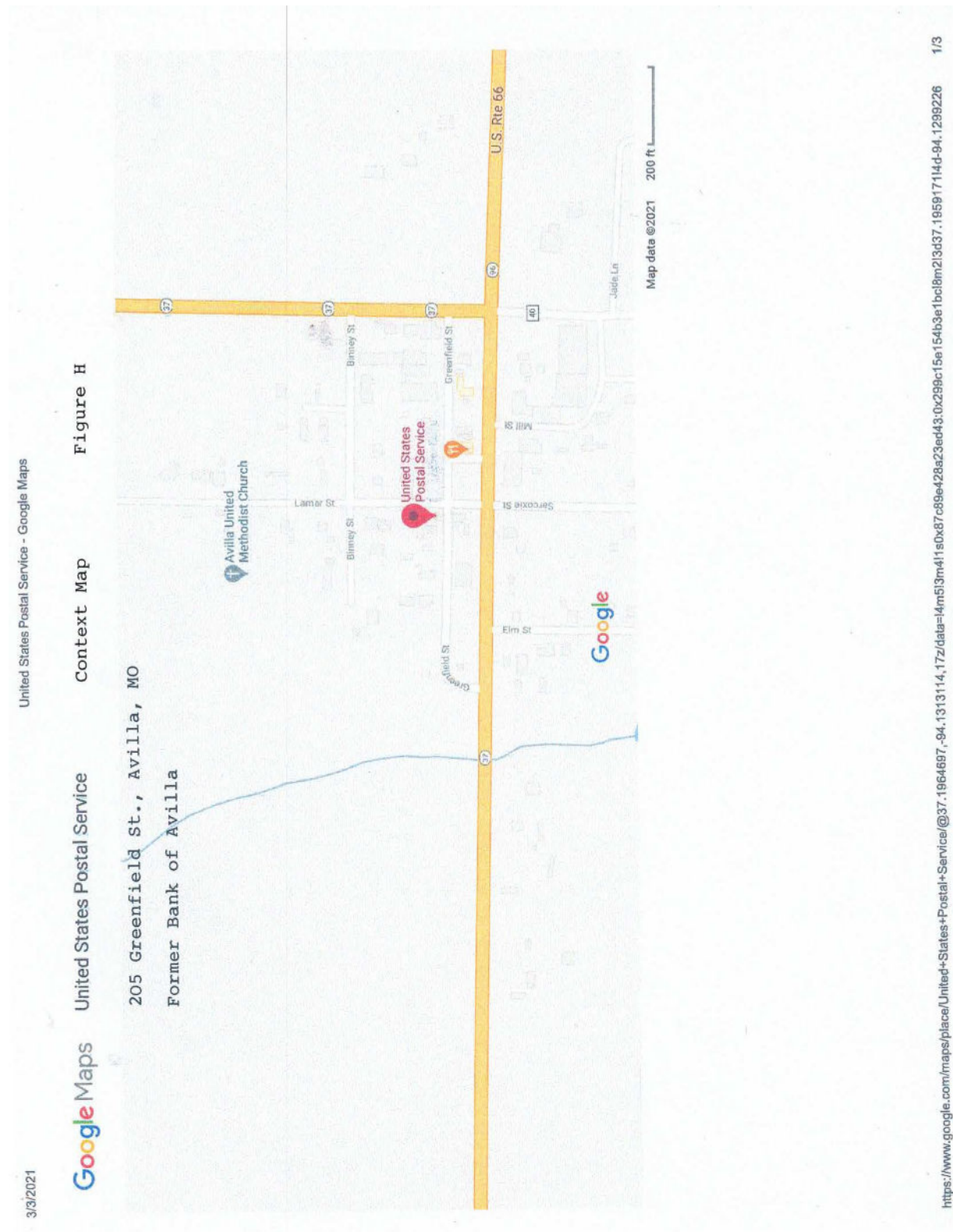
Figure C



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 22

Bank of Avilla
Name of Property
Jasper County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



1915

U.S. POST OFFICE

205 GREENFIELD ST

AMHS POST OFFICE
AVON, MO

Full Service Hours:

Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday & Holidays Closed

Self-Service Hours:

Monday - Friday 24 hours

Thanks for Visiting

WARNING

Welcome

Please Protect Yourself and Others





POST OFFICE AVILLA MO

1916
U.S. POST OFFICE





4





6

DROPS



ATTENTION: MAILBOXES
NOT TO BE OPENED
BY THE PUBLIC

NOTICE

If you are...
• A civil penalty of at least \$250, but not more than \$100,000 per violation.
• The costs of any cleanup associated with such violation.
• Criminal penalties.
Make Sure...
• Mailbox...
• Mailbox...
• Mailbox...
• Mailbox...

TO ORDER STAMPS
OR TO BUY POSTAGE
PAID MAIL, VISIT
STAMPSONLINE.COM

To better serve the needs of the community of Austin, 24-hour access to the Post Office Lobby will be allowed.
This is a privilege and not a right. Should any candidate or group access the 24-hour response will be revoked.

STAMPS
PARCEL POST



NOTICE
DO NOT FORGET
YOUR P.O. BOX KEY IS
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
IF YOU LOSE YOUR KEY,
CONTACT THE COUNTY
REGISTRAR AT 512.473.1111

MONEY ORDERS
REGISTRY





BOX MAIL
AVAILABLE 11:30 AM





WARNING

Thanks for Visiting

Thanks for visiting

Please Protect Yourself and Others

Lobby Open 24 Hours

Please protect yourself and others

POST OFFICE AVILLA MO



Help

Surprise Someone A World Away

COMPARE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING SERVICES

Find the international shipping service that's right for you.

1P 5P

2P 6P

3P 7P

4P 8P

U.S. MAIL

Our Promise to You

We're dedicated to delivering great service that's safe and dependable.

Know what's coming

Use a "Informed Delivery" notification and you can expect to find nothing new.

www.usps.com/informed

THANK YOU

FOR HELPING BRACK LIVING UNDER ARTIST

U.S. SHIPPING

Priority Mail®	Priority Mail®
Next Day Delivery to select destinations	Expected Delivery in 1, 2 or 3 days
Flat Rate® Envelope	Flat Rate Envelope
Flat Rate Small Box	Flat Rate Small Box
Flat Rate Medium Box	Flat Rate Medium Box
Flat Rate Large Box	Flat Rate Large Box

EXTRA DAYS WE CAN BE OF SERVICE

Know what's coming

U.S. SHIPPING



Jones & Sons
of London

WELCOME
MAIL & MONEY

DROPS



ATTENTION



1-800-333-3447
U.S. Postal Service
Post Office



NOTICE
To better serve the needs of the community of Avila, 24-hour access to the Post Office lobby will be allowed.
This is a privilege and not a right. Should any vandalism or misuse occur, the 24-hour access will be revoked.

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STAMPS
PARCEL POST



NOTICE
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NOTICE
DO NOT FORGET
YOUR P.O. BOX KEYS
U.S. Postal Service
Post Office
Avila, MO 64001

MONEY ORDERS
REGISTRY

