

413-415 Hampshire

Ricker Bank

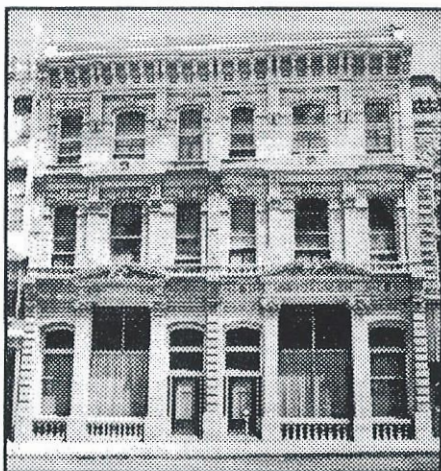
Constructed in 1876, east addition in 1891

J. S. McKean, architect

Harvey Chatten, architect east addition

Second Empire

Ricker Bank was founded by Henry Ricker, a native of Hanover, Germany. Originally the bank was half of its present size, but in 1891 an exact replica was built to the east. The addition is distinguished only by a small variation in the color of its facing. The structure is made of smooth, gray ashlar with elaborate, carved limestone ornament.



The building is six bays wide. The second and the fifth bays appear as pavilions due to the amount of ornamental stone carvings and their slight protrusion from the face of the building. This creates a sense of hierarchy, originally to emphasize the entrance, presently to maintain symmetry. Each story is divided by a heavy belt course of different ornament and detail. The building is ultimately crowned by a large bracketed cornice that supports the straight-sided mansard roof. The roof once carried a dormer above each of the main bays. Their loss in 1930 is the only compromise to the building's exterior integrity.

The bank was closed during the Great Depression and was neglected for the next forty years. In 1973 the building was restored and today houses the Griffin Centre.

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1997 Special Tour

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