

# 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 Property

Historic name Melton's Bank  
Other names/site number Gassaway Post Office  
Name of related multiple property listing N/A  
(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 229 Gassaway Main Street  
City or town: Liberty State: Tennessee County: Cannon  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  Zip: 37190

## 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
**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**  
**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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Financial Institution

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; METAL; CONCRETE;

**Narrative Description**

Melton's Bank was constructed in 1925 in the small, unincorporated community of Gassaway, Cannon County. It is surrounded to the north and south by commercial buildings, and rural residential housing on the east and west. Gassaway Main Street is to the east of the property, and Martin Drive is to the south. The Bank building is located on a small lot sized less than one acre, it is a one-story commercial style building with a climb-up loft. It is a wood frame building built with oak wood cut at one of the local sawmills in Gassaway. The bank is covered with red pressed metal siding that imitates brickwork and rests upon a concrete block foundation. Grates are visible in the foundation on the north and east elevation. The footprint is a simple rectangle, 24 feet wide and 36 feet long. The concrete porch on the west elevation (façade) is sheltered by a tin awning supported by six metal poles attached to the façade. The entire structure is capped by a shed tin roof. The building remains largely unaltered since its construction and retains its historic integrity of setting, location, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**Exterior**

*West Elevation (Façade)*

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A twelve-light wood door with nine-light, wood transom is centered on the façade and serves as the main entrance. It is flanked by single light, fixed, wood display windows with twenty-one light, wood transoms. The current owners replaced the two large display windows with matching materials and light configuration in 2018. "THE MELTONS BANK" is centered on each of the display windows. The remaining windows on the west elevation are original. A full-length concrete slab with a single, centered concrete step serves as the façade's landing. The doors and windows are sheltered beneath a corrugated tin roof awning. The west elevation fronts Gassaway Main Street. Wood signs above the door read "U.S. POST OFFICE, GASSAWAY TN 37070."

*North Elevation*

The distinguishing features on the north elevation are a centered, concrete block chimney, and a single, wood, double-hung, eight-over-eight window located on the east end of the north elevation. The bottom of the window contains an air conditioning unit.

*East Elevation*

The sole architectural feature on the east elevation is an entrance located on the elevation's north end. The entrance is filled with a replacement, six-paneled wood door that accesses the building's post office room. The door is sheltered by a shed roof metal 5V crimp awning supported by wood brackets and served by a wooden access ramp, which is attached to the doorway. The rear entrance is original, but the door has been replaced, most likely after the fire in 1981. The electrical service to the building is evidenced by conduit wiring running to the building through a metal pole located south of the rear door. A kilowatt meter is attached to the metal pole.

*South Elevation*

The south elevation was not accessible for photographic documentation because of the bank's proximity to a separate building. The sole feature on this elevation is a large, single-light, wood, stationary wood window. The window is unused and covered by blinds within the interior.

**Interior**

*Bank Interior*

The interior is rectangular in design. The main entrance opens into the Bank Interior. The Post Office and Bank Vault are located in the western end of the building. The Bank Interior and Post Office floors are covered with the original wood flooring. A paneled wood knee-wall and imitation wood paneling cover the Bank Interior's walls. The wood paneling was installed by Howard Kidwell following a fire in 1981. The bank's original tongue-in-groove wood ceiling remains above the current drop-down tile ceiling, which was also installed in 1981.

Various historical mementos, including the original post office sign, are displayed in the room. The primary feature within the interior is the bank's original 1925 solid wood, seven-foot by ten-foot teller cage. Encompassing the bulk of the front room, its characteristics include iron trim and etched glass. The counter space behind the teller cage contains ledgers, old calculators and other necessary tools for rural banking.

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*Post Office*

The Post Office's walls are covered in stucco, and the ceiling is covered in original tongue-in-groove wood. A wood knee wall is present throughout the room. The wood door into the post office is the original door.

The original post office cage divides the room and dominates the space. Behind the caged post office window are mail slots built onto the wall for organizational purposes. Authentic items from the building's post office history, such as old adding machines and a sign advertising the post office hours, are displayed. A wooden swing gate, lockable by padlock, ensures the security of the post office operation within the room. The circuit breaker panel for the building is on the wall between the east elevation's entrance and the wall-mounted mail slots.

*Bank Vault*

The Bank Vault room's floor, walls, and ceilings are all made of concrete. The walls are eighteen inches thick. It is accessed by a steel vault door installed by Howard Kidwell in 1960 after the original wood vault door was dynamited by bank robbers. The design and materials of the Bank Vault are otherwise unchanged.

**Integrity**

Melton's Bank retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building remains in its original location, where it served the community as an important commercial business. It also retains its integrity of setting, as the small community of Gassaway remains much like it was when Melton's Bank was in operation. The bank's integrity of design reflects the understated simplicity of the 19<sup>th</sup> century/early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial style in a rural setting. Its materials were sourced locally, constructed with oak cut at one of the local sawmills in Gassaway. Although the builder cannot be ascertained to a required level of certainty, it is likely that Melton Bank's workmanship was overseen by a local man active in other construction projects. The bank's original 1925 frame style construction with corrugated siding and a tin roof remains unaltered. As such, the bank retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Finally, Melton's Bank retains integrity of feeling and association, serving as a link to the history of both the bank and the Gassaway community.

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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.)

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

- 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.

**Period of Significance**

1925-1973

**Significant Dates**

1925

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

Property is:

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

- 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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### **Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Melton's Bank is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in Commerce, as it relates to the Gassaway community in Cannon County, Tennessee. The building's Period of Significance is from its date of construction in 1925 until 1973. It was named after the Melton family, who chartered and operated a bank located elsewhere in the Gassaway community. James Kidwell and his son, Howard Kidwell, managed the bank during its period of significance. James Kidwell managed the bank from its construction in 1925 until his death in 1950. Howard Kidwell managed it from the date of his father's passing until his own death in 1986. Melton's Bank was the only bank in the community, and the Kidwell family provided unusually personal service to the residents and businesses of Gassaway. The building fell into disuse after the banking business was acquired by the First National Bank of Manchester in 1987. Gary and Jama Hancock, the current owners, acquired Melton's Bank in 2018, restored it and transformed it into a community museum. The building's overall design has not experienced substantial change and it retains its historic and architectural integrity.

### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

Cannon County was established on January 31, 1836, when the Tennessee legislature combined portions of Rutherford, Smith, and Warren Counties to create the new county of Cannon, named in honor of Whig Governor Newton Cannon. Two years later, the legislature added a portion of Wilson County, creating the current county boundaries. The county's first settlers moved to present-day western Cannon County during the late 1790s. The first village was Danville, which became the initial county seat. Its name was soon changed to Woodbury to honor Levi Woodbury, the Democratic secretary of the treasury.<sup>1</sup>

Gassaway is an unincorporated community in Cannon County, located eight miles northeast of Woodbury. Situated in a picturesque valley near the Liberty community of neighboring DeKalb County, Gassaway lies next to Clear Fork Creek. The agricultural village adopted the name Gassaway after a post office was established in the 1880s. Local citizens named it after Benjamin Gassaway, a leading early settler of the community.<sup>2</sup> Other prominent early settlers included George Washington Grizzle, Ira Hollandsworth, Bill Powell, and Calvin Smithson, a veteran of the Mexican War.<sup>3</sup>

Benjamin Gassaway and his fellow citizens were unusually successful in their agricultural pursuits in the late nineteenth century, producing more livestock, poultry, and grains than they required. They worked together to drive their livestock to Brush Creek in nearby Smith County where they loaded them on a train for transportation to markets in Nashville. These efforts brought recognition to the farmers and above average cash flow into their small but progressive farming community.<sup>4</sup>

During Gassaway's heyday in the 1920s and 1930s, the community boasted five sawmills, four mercantile stores, two gristmills, two blacksmith shops, one hat shop, an undertaker, and a cobbler. Gassaway had three

<sup>1</sup> Carroll Van West, "Cannon County," *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Tennessee Historical Society, March 1, 2018, <https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/cannon-county/>, accessed January 31, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Robert L. Mason, *Cannon County: Tennessee County History Series* (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1982) p. 237.

<sup>3</sup> Sterling Spurlock Brown, *History of Woodbury and Cannon County: When Gassaway Was Young* (Manchester: Doak Printing Company, 1936) p. 39.

<sup>4</sup> Gary and Jama Hancock, interviews by author, Gassaway, Tennessee, May 2, 2022 and May 25, 2022.

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churches and its citizens built various bridges crossing Clear Fork Creek over the years. The undisputed center of commerce for the small community throughout the twentieth century was Melton's Bank.<sup>5</sup>

George G. Melton and his sons, John H. Melton and James B. Melton, had conducted informal banking business out of their Melton Mercantile store since the 1890s. The mercantile store also included a post office, hardware, and feed store. The Meltons chartered and officially opened the Melton's Bank for business in 1903, maintaining their new bank within their mercantile store. When they chartered the bank, George G. Melton hired James Kidwell (hereafter referred to as "Mr. Jim") as assistant cashier.

George G. Melton passed away in 1911. His oldest son James B. Melton, who had served as postmaster, died in 1920. John H. Melton, the head cashier at the bank, passed away in 1923. After John H. Melton's passing in 1923, Mr. Jim Kidwell became the head cashier at the bank. In 1925, Mr. Jim bought the lot adjacent to the mercantile store, constructed a new building there that same year, and moved the banking business into the building in 1926. This new building is the subject of this nomination. Mr. Jim owned the new building and leased it to the Melton's Bank stockholders for \$1.00, with the understanding that the lease would remain in force as long as the building operated as a bank. The agreement stated that, should the building ever cease to be a bank, it would revert back to the Kidwell family's possession. Mr. Jim immediately appointed his son, Jesse Howard Kidwell, as assistant cashier.<sup>6</sup>

From 1923 until his death in 1950, Mr. Jim Kidwell was Melton's Bank to the citizens of the Gassaway community. Throughout his tenure, he managed the day-to-day operations and was the driving force behind the bank's success. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, when financial panic set in and "runs" on banks were commonplace, the Melton's Bank never closed. Mr. Howard Kidwell's wife Ethel remembered years later that "only one person withdrew his money when the stock market crashed, but then he came back later that day and put it back in."<sup>7</sup> One of the bank's early mottos was, "there may be larger banks but none any safer." This motto was tested on May 8, 1933, when three armed men robbed the bank and stole \$2,212.84. Mr. Jim took this personally. He ran outside and fired his pistol at the getaway car as it crossed the bridge over Clear Fork Creek, his bullets hitting the dirt beneath the vehicle.<sup>8</sup>

Mr. Jim Kidwell's devotion to the Melton's Bank and his community was absolute. He rose at 3:00 am, enjoyed a big breakfast and opened the bank two hours before daylight, to accommodate his customers. This enabled the farmers and mill workers to conduct their bank business first and then still get to work early. He provided highly personalized service to his neighbors. All the banking business was done with paper and there were no account numbers on the checks. Mr. Jim knew all his customers by name.<sup>9</sup>

Mr. Jim also served as a "wise counselor" to members of the Gassaway community. He wrote letters for his customers who were either illiterate or who needed assistance with their written business correspondence. He

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<sup>5</sup> Hancock, interviews by author, May 2, 2022 and May 25, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Hancock, interviews by author, May 2, 2022 and May 25, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Ken Beck, "Banking on History: Gassaway couple brings 1925 bank, post office back to life as a museum," *The Cannon Courier*, May 18, 2019, Woodbury, Tennessee.

<sup>8</sup> Beck, "Banking on History."

<sup>9</sup> Beck, "Banking on History."

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advised Gassaway's farmers not to sell their livestock to each other. Instead, he built a holding pen for the livestock in Gassaway and counseled them to take their stock the seventeen miles to the railroad in Brush Creek, in Smith County. From there, the farmers could take their livestock to market in Nashville. He then advised them to take their profits and purchase the newest agricultural products in Nashville (thrashers for farmers and steam engines for the grist and saw mills) and bring them home to Gassaway. He always counseled them to think of their community while they advanced their own interests.<sup>10</sup>

A year before Mr. Jim Kidwell's death in 1950, *The Nashville Tennessean* profiled him as a "perfect citizen" and a "humble financier" who never took a vacation in his nearly half century of service to the Gassaway community. The profile described his unusual role as financial advisor and budget director for nearly every family in the community: how he wrote or reviewed their deeds anytime a farm or home was sold; that he helped them with their taxes; and that when any business transaction was made, it was only completed when Mr. Jim counted the money, put it in the safe and recorded the sale. The article highlighted the simple virtues of his daily life, relating how he never owned a car, rode in a bus or airplane, or left the State of Tennessee. His neighbors said it best: "Mr. Jim Kidwell's name was synonymous with kindness, honesty and rare business judgment."<sup>11</sup>

If the Melton's Bank owed its success in the first half of the twentieth century to Mr. Jim Kidwell, it is fair to say that his son Jesse Howard Kidwell was responsible for its continued prosperity in the second half. Jesse Howard Kidwell (hereafter referred to as "Mr. Howard") began working at the Melton's Bank with his father in 1923. He also served as postmaster in the building from 1931 until 1973. Mr. Howard continued the example his father had set, providing highly personalized service to his neighbors in Gassaway. Like his father, he understood that his unusual position in such a small community demanded strict discretion. In Gassaway, it was said of Mr. Howard: "he knew your business but nobody else knew your business."<sup>12</sup>

The Gassaway community started to decline after World War II, when many of its citizens left to seek job opportunities in northern cities. Mr. Howard stayed in Gassaway and managed Melton's Bank. From 1950 until his death in 1986, Mr. Howard and his wife Ethel were the only employees in the building. Mrs. Ethel Kidwell had a long-standing tradition of giving every child that entered Melton's Bank a peanut butter cracker as a treat.<sup>13</sup>

Melton's Bank was robbed again on August 13, 1960, when burglars broke open a window to gain entry to the building. The burglars dynamited and gained access to the vault in the building but were unable to open the safe within the vault. The thieves stole about \$600.00 in cash and some metal boxes containing documents of no value to them, like deeds, bonds and post office stamps. The thieves discarded the metal boxes in a ditch about fifteen miles from the crime scene, which the Cannon County sheriff recovered the next morning. Mr. Howard discovered the break-in and notified the authorities.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Hancock, interviews by author, May 2, 2022 and May 25, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> Gordon H. Turner, "Gassaway Banker Enjoys Perfect Citizen Status," *The Nashville Tennessean*, March 23, 1949, Nashville, Tennessee.

<sup>12</sup> Hancock, interviews by author, May 2, 2022 and May 25, 2022.

<sup>13</sup> Hancock, interviews by author, May 2, 2022 and May 25, 2022.

<sup>14</sup> "Melton's Bank and Post Office at Gassaway Robbed," *The Cannon Courier*, August 19, 1960, Woodbury, Tennessee.

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The old Melton Mercantile store adjacent to Melton's Bank caught fire and burned in 1981. The flames caught the north side of the Melton's Bank on fire and Mr. Howard raced to the scene. Mr. Howard would not let the firefighters in until the Cannon County sheriff arrived. If the sheriff had not assured him that only firefighters would enter the building, Mr. Howard stated he would let the bank burn to protect his customers' confidential information. Such a drastic measure was not necessary, as only certain elements of the north side of the structure were damaged. After the fire, Mr. Howard installed wood wall paneling, electrical wiring, and lowered the ceiling, and installed the building's current fluorescent lights.<sup>15</sup>

Mr. Howard Kidwell passed away in March of 1986, the day after he retired. A stock purchase agreement was executed in May of 1986 and the First National Bank of Manchester purchased Melton's Bank in January of 1987. The institution closed its doors six months later. Pursuant to the old lease agreement, the building reverted back to the Kidwell family. Although Mr. Howard was bonded and maintained insurance on the building, the bank was never insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Although the Kidwells never charged more than the initial nominal fee to the bank's shareholders for the use of their building, they did charge the federal government for the Gassaway post office space. When it closed its doors, it was the last uninsured depository in the state.<sup>16</sup>

Many of the Kidwell's business practices would raise red flags today, regarding conflicts of interest and other concerns. However, it is impossible to separate the success of the Melton's Bank from Mr. Jim and Mr. Howard, who literally devoted their lives to the Melton's Bank and the Gassaway community. As the *Tennessean* profile described them in 1949, "Like father, like son, like father—both of them have worked for years, as the boy helps the man count money and the man helps the boy sort mail; against neither of whose services, through the long years, no criticism by patrons or officials is known to have been made."<sup>17</sup>

Gary and Jama Hancock purchased the Melton's Bank building from Mr. Jim Kidwell's great grandson in 2018. Married over forty years, the Hancocks grew up in Gassaway, did their early banking at Melton's Bank, and have fond memories of Mr. Howard and his wife Ethel. They bought the bank building to "keep it from deteriorating, make it a community museum, to create some interest and pride."<sup>18</sup> The couple did an enormous amount of work to achieve their goals, including bringing back the bank's attractive interior centerpiece—its ten-foot long and seven-foot high original teller cage. The First National Bank had spirited the cage away to Manchester, where it was being used as a ticket cage in their Aerospace museum. The resourceful Hancocks retrieved the cage and brought it back to its rightful home. It took a U-Haul and six men to return it.<sup>19</sup>

The Hancocks have successfully transformed the Melton's Bank into the Gassaway Museum, which highlights the heritage of both the bank and the community. Visitors can view the nine foot by seven-foot vault, with its eighteen-inch thick concrete walls. Several other items in the bank remain just as they were

<sup>15</sup> Hancock, interviews by author, May 2, 2022 and May 25, 2022.

<sup>16</sup> Beck, "Banking on History."

<sup>17</sup> Turner, "Gassaway Banker Enjoys Perfect Citizen Status."

<sup>18</sup> Beck, "Banking on History."

<sup>19</sup> Beck, "Banking on History."

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during its operation, including Mrs. Ethel Kidwell's sewing machine in the post office, the original director's chair and table, and old Cannon County and Gassaway maps showing the postal routes.<sup>20</sup> The Hancocks are thrilled they've been able to help succeeding generations learn about the history of the Melton's Bank and Gassaway. Their building tells the story of a close family, honestly serving the commercial interests of a tight-knit community for the better part of a century.

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<sup>20</sup> Beck, "Banking on History."

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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### Bibliography

- Beck, Ken. "Banking on History: Gassaway couple brings 1925 bank, post office back to life as a museum." *The Cannon Courier*. May 18, 2019. Woodbury, Tennessee.
- Brown, Sterling Spurlock. *History of Woodbury and Cannon County: When Gassaway Was Young*. Manchester: Doak Printing Company, 1936.
- Hancock, Gary. "Gassaway History." Lecture presented to the Cannon County Historical Society in Woodbury on May 14, 2013; and to the Auburntown Historical Society in Auburntown on June 20, 2013.
- Hancock, Gary and Jama. Interviews by the author. Gassaway, Tennessee. May 2, 2022 and May 25, 2022.
- Mason, Robert L. *Cannon County: Tennessee County History Series*. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1982.
- The Cannon Courier*. "Melton's Bank and Post Office at Gassaway Robbed." August 19, 1960. Woodbury, Tennessee.
- Turner, Gordon H. "Gassaway Banker Enjoys Perfect Citizen Status." *The Nashville Tennessean*. March 23, 1949. Nashville, Tennessee.
- Van West, Carroll. "Cannon County." *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. Tennessee Historical Society, 2018. <https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/cannon-county/>.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

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**10. Geographical Data**

<b>Acreage of Property</b>	<u>Less than 1 acre</u>	<b>USGS Quadrangle</b>	<u>Gassaway 323-NW</u>
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(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.939636 | Longitude: -85.995481 |
| 2. Latitude: 35.939567 | Longitude: -85.995461 |
| 3. Latitude: 35.939537 | Longitude: -85.995611 |
| 4. Latitude: 35.939607 | Longitude: -85.995631 |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is rectangular in shape, and the points correspond with the four corners of the building. From Point 1 (35.939636,-85.995481), heading South for approximately 26ft to Point 2 (35.939567,-85.995461), then heading West for approximately 45ft to Point 3 (35.939537,-85.995611), then heading North for approximately 26ft to Point 4 (35.939607,-85.995631), then heading East for approximately 45ft to Point 1 at the beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

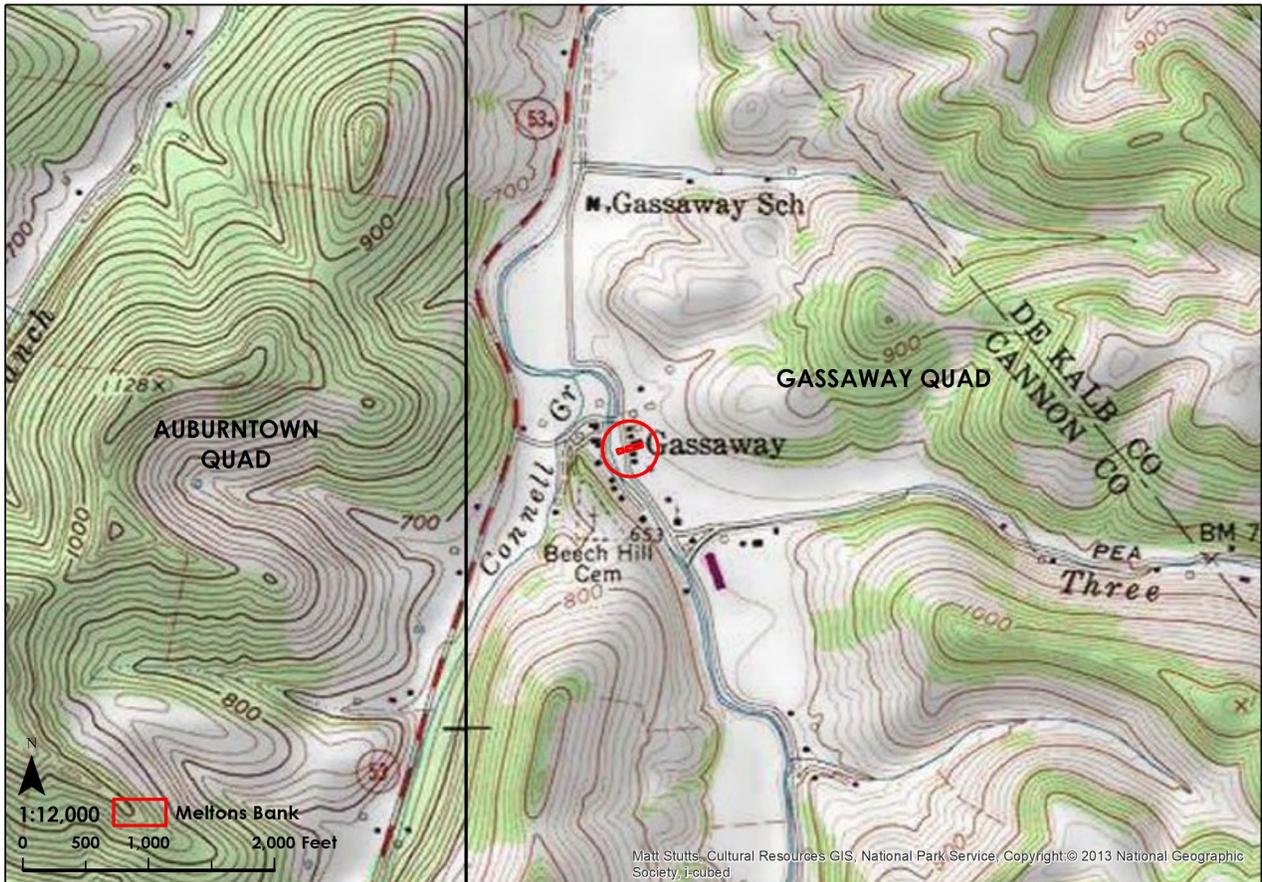
The boundaries are drawn to include just the bank building because that is the sole significant resource. These boundaries also exclude adjacent buildings not associated with the significance, as well as associated land that is not necessary to include to convey the property's significance.

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**Topographic Map**

Meltons Bank - 229 Gassaway Main St  
Parcel: 0101 A 008.00



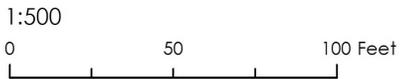
**Gassaway, TN Quadrangle Map. The location of Melton's Bank is marked with a red square and circle.**

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**Tax Map**

Meltons Bank - 229 Gassaway Main St  
Parcel: 0101 A 008.00



 Meltons Bank  
 Neighboring Parcels

Coordinate System: NAD1983 Tennessee State Plane FIPS 4100ft  
Point 1: 35.939636 , -85.995481  
Point 2: 35.939567 , -85.995461  
Point 3: 35.939537 , -85.995611  
Point 4: 35.939607 , -85.995631



**Boundaries depicted in red. Each point corresponds with the appropriate latitude and longitude coordinates.**

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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Name Mark Dudney

Organization Upper Cumberland Development District

Street & Number 1104 England Drive Date February 1, 2023

City or Town Cookeville Telephone 931-881-6687

E-mail mdudney@ucdd.org State Tennessee Zip Code 38501

#### 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 map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

**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.

Melton's Bank  
Name of Property

Cannon County, Tennessee  
County and State

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Melton's Bank

City or Vicinity: Gassaway, Tennessee

County: Cannon

Photographers: Chuck Sutherland and Mark Dudney

Dates Photographed: Sutherland (May 9, 2019); Dudney (May 2, 2022)

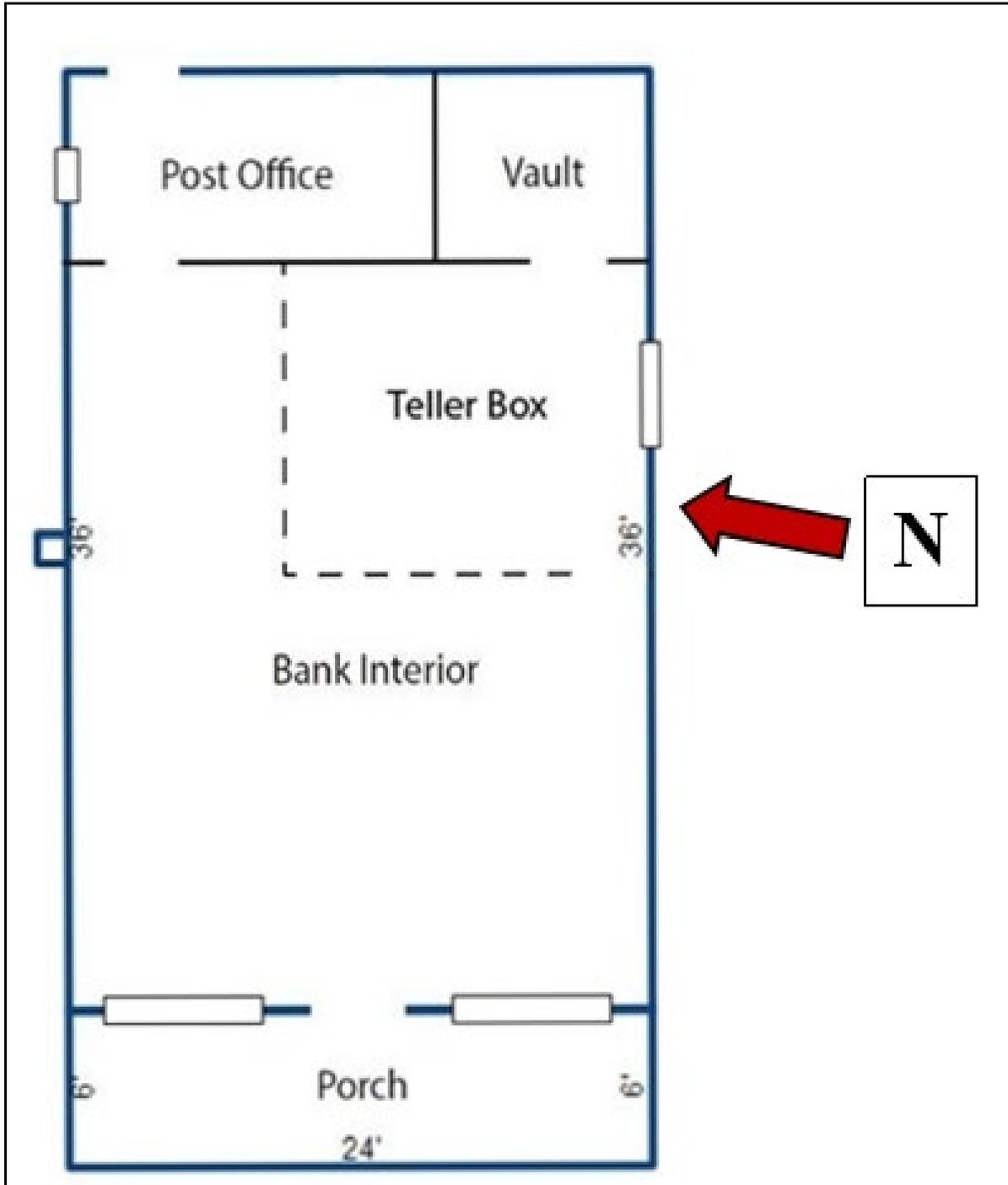
Description of photographs and number, including description of view indicating direction of the camera:

- 1 of 13. Exterior, façade of Melton's Bank, facing east.
- 2 of 13. Exterior, façade of Melton's Bank and Undertaker Building, facing east.
- 3 of 13. Exterior, Melton's Bank, facing southeast.
- 4 of 13. Exterior, rear entrance to Melton's Bank Post Office, facing west.
- 5 of 13. Interior, items highlighting Gassaway history, facing north.
- 6 of 13. Interior, Post Office entrance, facing east.
- 7 of 13. Interior, customer view of the Post Office window, facing west.
- 8 of 13. Interior, view of the Post Office, facing east.
- 9 of 13. Interior, view of the teller cage from the Post Office entrance, facing west.
- 10 of 13. Interior, view of the teller cage, facing east.
- 11 of 13. Interior, view of the teller cage, facing northeast.
- 12 of 13. Interior, vault door and vault interior, facing east.
- 13 of 13. Interior, view within the vault, facing east.

Melton's Bank  
Name of Property

Cannon County, Tennessee  
County and State

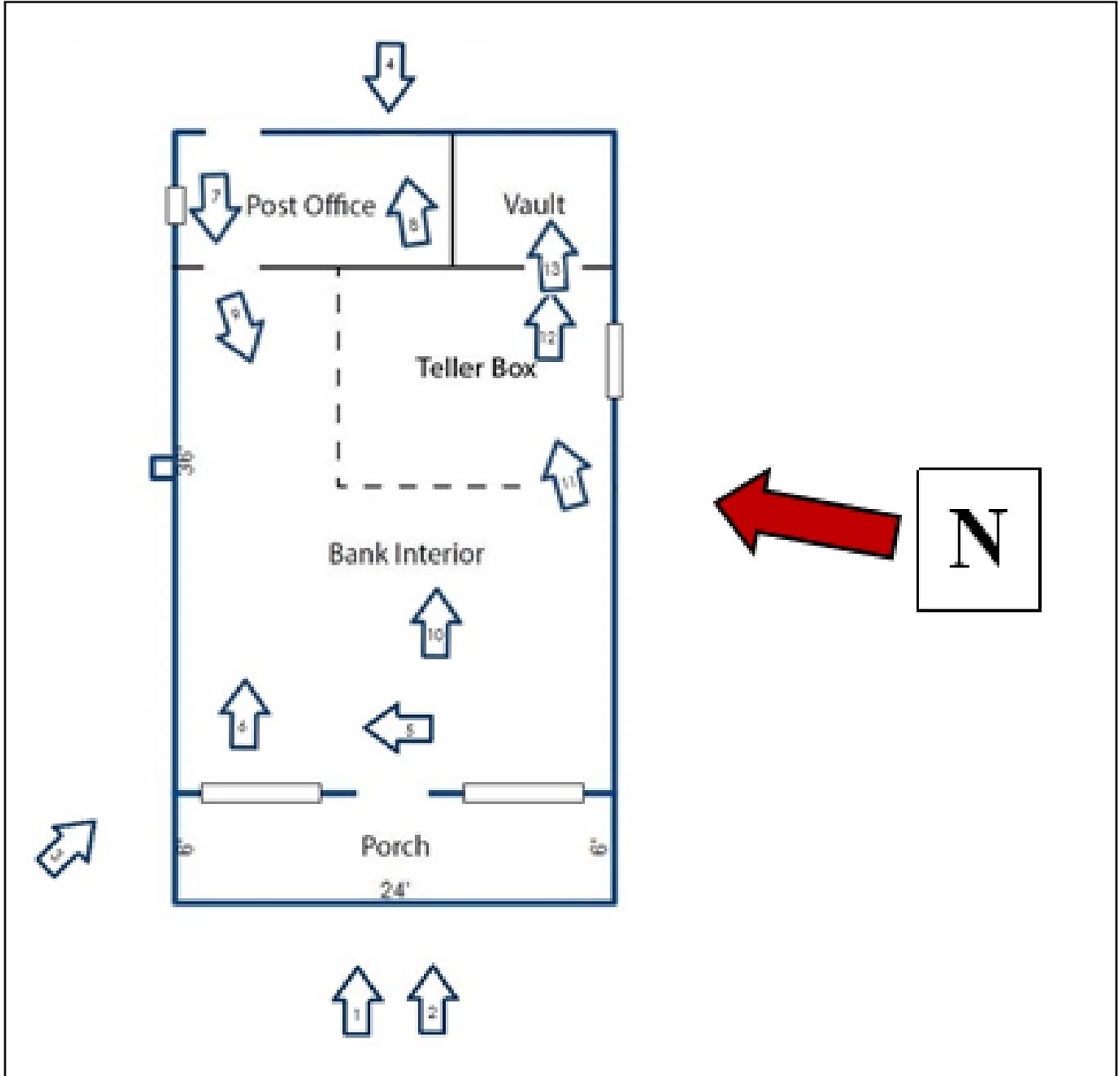
Site Plan (Not to Scale)



Melton's Bank  
Name of Property

Cannon County, Tennessee  
County and State

Floor Plan (Not to Scale)



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**Property Owner:**

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

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Name **Gary and Jama Hancock**

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Street &

Number 9319 Gassaway Road

Telephone 615-563-2387

City or Town Woodbury

State/Zip Tennessee, 37190

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**MELTON'S BANK  
GASSAWAY, CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



**1 OF 13**



**2 OF 13**

MELTON'S BANK  
GASSAWAY, CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE



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MELTON'S BANK  
GASSAWAY, CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE



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MELTON'S BANK  
GASSAWAY, CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE



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MELTON'S BANK  
GASSAWAY, CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE



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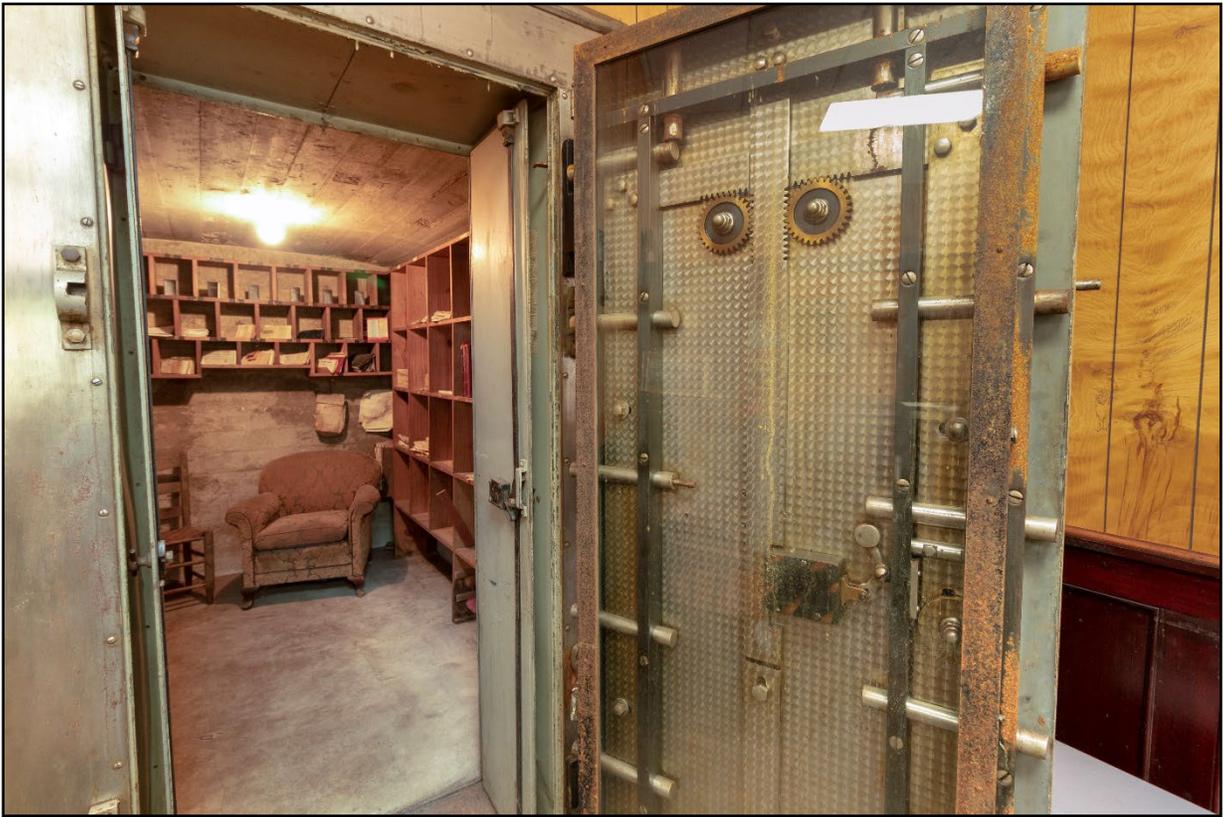


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MELTON'S BANK  
GASSAWAY, CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE



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12 OF 13

MELTON'S BANK  
GASSAWAY, CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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