

First National Bank and Safe Deposit Company Collection (SC202)

Introduction

The First National Bank of Kansas City was started in 1886 by James Lewis Lombard and Colonel James L. Abernathy, and served Kansas City for over 100 years. The First National Safe Deposit Company was a subsidiary of the bank that offered safe deposit boxes for customer use. This collection contains items found in the former First National Bank and current Kansas City Public Library Central Branch building by library staff, as well as additional miscellaneous bank materials donated to the library.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: First National Bank of Kansas City and First National Safe Deposit Company

Title: First National Bank and Safe Deposit Company Collection

Dates: 1926-1961

Size: 1.21 linear feet, 2 boxes

Collection Number: SC202

Donor Information

Some items were found in building by IT staff in 2005.

Gift, Margaret J. Cunningham Graf, 2007.

Gift, John Byrd, 2009.

Gift, William Hathorne, 2013.

Citation Note

First National Bank and Safe Deposit Company Collection (SC200), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Related Collections: Additional material relating to First National Bank can be found in SC201 First National Bank Collection.

Historical Sketch

The First National Bank of Kansas City was founded in 1886 when James Lewis Lombard and Colonel James L. Abernathy combined their resources to turn a private bank into a national bank charter. The bank opened in a rental space in the Junction Building at 9th and Main Streets, but then moved to the Heist Building at 8th and Main in 1891. By 1906 a new building, designed by the architect firm of Wilder and Wight, was built for the bank at 10th and Baltimore. This building was expanded and

remodeled several times, including a large addition north of the main building designed by the architect firm Marshall and Brown and completed in 1964. The bank also rented two floors of the Ten Main Center building to the east in 1968 and then additional floors in 1980. In 1985 First National Bank merged with Boatmen's Bank and Trust Company and CharterBank Ward Parkway, and became Boatmen's First National Bank of Kansas City. In 1999 the bank reorganized under Bank of America and moved its main branch to 1200 Main Street. The Kansas City Public Library opened its Central Branch in the former bank building at 10th and Baltimore in 2004.

The First National Safe Deposit Company was a subsidiary of the bank that offered safe deposit boxes for customer use. The Safe Deposit Company had a lease with the bank to use space in the vault for the safe deposit boxes.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains correspondence about a loan account, correspondence and a lease agreement between the Safe Deposit Company and the bank, ledgers of accounts, and check registers. The items are arranged by type and date.

Collection Inventory

- f. 1 Correspondence of W. S. McCarthy, 1933-1935
- f. 2 Correspondence and Lease with C. W. Allendoerfer, 1949
- f. 3 Safety Deposit Key and Account Book, 1925-1938, 1947
- f. 4 Ledger for First National Safe Deposit Co., 1926-1942
- f. 5 Ledger for First National Safe Deposit Co., 1943-1961
- f. 6-11 Ledger of Debits and Credits for First National Safe Deposit Co., 1926-1951
- f. 12 Check Register, 1931-1933
- f. 13 Check Register, 1952-1953, 1955-1956

Processed by Kara Evans, Special Collections Librarian/Archivist, February 2017.