

SouthStar Bank Moulton Branch Restoration Project

The historic “Boehm Mercantile Store” was built in 1906 and purchased in 1990 for conversion into expanded bank headquarters. The SouthStar Bank Moulton Branch restoration project began with the goal of restoring the building with an authentic interpretation of its turn-of-the-century Victorian architecture. Many desirable features were still intact within the building, including original longleaf pine floors, pine structural columns, ornate pressed metal ceiling, and the stately, half-moon window overlooking the rolling hills of the Moulton countryside.

Offices and teller line structures were rebuilt using white oak with block paneling in the lobby and front offices, designed and installed by Adamek Construction, Inc. and Total Cabinet & Door, Inc. The pressed metal ceiling in the lobby is original to the building, while new pressed metal ceilings were added in the office areas. A unique front door crest was also added to the building. These distinctive metal details were produced by the W.F. Norman Company in Nevada, Missouri which still operates with their original 1898 dies. The sheet metal panels and ornaments are pressed one at a time with the original antique rope-drop hammers.

Iron work arches over the teller line, reminiscent of iron work typical of Victorian era banks, was custom made by San Marcos Iron Company. Each side of the teller station is flanked with antique, iron windows. The large bank vault door was painted and stenciled by George’s Art and Sign.

Pam Browning, a Bank Officer and glass artist, custom designed the cut glass panels that adorn the transom areas above the large front picture windows, front door, and side panels of the office entryways. The lobby bathroom walls are tiled with replica encaustic tile with scroll designs, imitating the iron work of the lobby. This type of tile was commonly used in public buildings of this time period. Heavy marble sink vanities with cast-iron bracing and high backsplashes are similar to those found in Victorian homes.

Extensive research was done to incorporate authentic design elements, including the Bradbury Wallpaper which is hand screened in Benicia, California. The Bradbury Wallpaper Company specializes in 19th and early 20th century historically accurate designs. The pattern used in the lobby is the Dresser Tradition, Aesthetic Green colorway.

Another eye-catching feature of the lobby is the large, two tiered Meyda Tiffany chandelier. This masterpiece features hand cut colored glass that was assembled in New York. The other lighting fixtures in the lobby are authentic reproductions of early 1900’s fixtures designed and made by Vintage Lighting and Hardware Company. They are known for creating pieces for Disney and Hollywood movie sets.

Notable antique furniture was added to the lobby including a circa 1900, built-in sideboard/buffet from a home in Chicago Illinois; built of rare, Cuban mahogany, and a circa 1895, massive carved oak Victorian couch made in Marshall, Texas, both purchased from Discoveries Architectural Antiques in Gonzales, Texas.

The SouthStar Bank Moulton renovation project was designed and executed by local contractors, craftsmen and designers including builder and general contractor Adamek Construction, Inc., architect Michael Branecky & Associates Architecture and designer Leah Wagner.