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NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY  
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

Item Number

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<u>Name</u>	Historic National Loan and Exchange Bank Building	Location	1338 Main Street
	Common Barringer Building	Classification	Building
<u>Owner</u>	Thirteen Thirty-Eight Company 1338 Main Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201	Contact:	James Kitchens

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description Located on a lot measuring about 105 feet by 55 feet, the Barringer Building with twelve stories and a basement contains approximately 55,000 square feet. The 184 foot tall brick and stone facade is supported by a steel frame.

First and second floors form the base of the building, third through eleventh, the shaft, and the twelfth floor serves as a capital.

First floor Main Street facade is stone and has seven bays. Originally two entrances with Gibbs surrounds were found on extreme left and right. Left entrance is now enclosed. Between entrances are five segmentally arched windows.

Second floor, also stone, has twelve rectangular recessed windows. End windows are more widely spaced and flank five pairs of windows. Above a stone entablature with a Vitruvian wave motif, the third through eleventh stories are brick and repeat fenestration pattern of second floor.  
(Continued on back)

Significance Now known as the Barringer Building, Columbia's first skyscraper was completed in October 1903 for the National Loan and Exchange Bank. The twelve story Georgian Revival Building is brick with rusticated stone on the lower two floors and stone detailing around the top floor. John Cain of Columbia was the contractor and the design has been attributed to James Brite.

Edwin Wales Robertson, president of the Loan and Exchange Bank as well as a prosperous Columbia developer and entrepreneur is credited with the idea of erecting the building. In 1893 Robertson established the Canal Dime Savings Bank which at that time had \$30,000 capital. By 1903 he had purchased controlling interests in two other banks to form the Loan and Exchange Bank, at that time the largest in South Carolina with capital of \$500,000.

The present name comes from the Barringer Corporation which owned the building (Continued)

Acreage .13 acre

Verbal Boundary Description TMS 19-08-01; fronting Washington Street for 54.6' and Main Street for 104.6'

UTM Reference Point Columbia North 17/496800/3762360

Other Information

Description continued

Windows replaced in 1960's renovation have moveable sash. Brickwork has a horizontally striped appearance: between rows of four bricks are recessed rows two bricks high.

Twelfth floor is brick with stone keystones over windows and stone panels on either side of end windows. Stonework includes garlanded festoons and an ornamented torus under windows.

An elaborate copper cornice was removed about 1965. Side facades consist of six bays on north and four bays on south. Twelfth floor of south side has six bays; those on the extreme left and right are blind windows.

Significance continued

from 1953 until 1974. Renovated in the 1960's, the building has one of the lowest vacancy rates in Downtown Columbia.