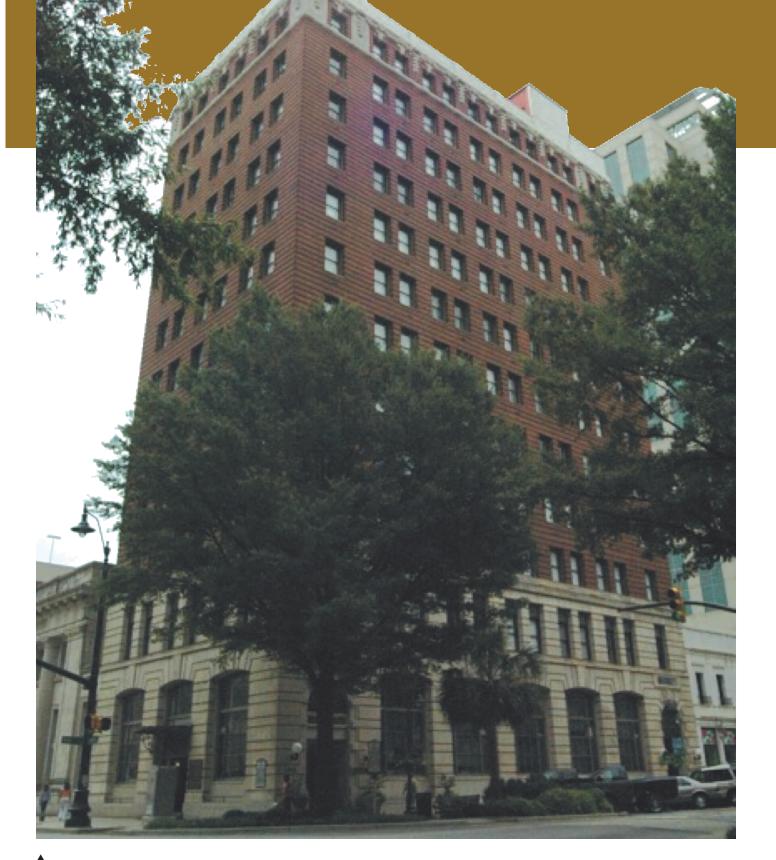
## The Barringer Building

"National Loan & Exchange Bank Building"

1338 Main Street



The Barringer still towers over downtown, on the corner of Main and Washington Street. Image courtesy of Capitol Places.



An early twentieth century postcard of the National Loan & Exchange Bank Building. Image courtesy of Capitol Places.

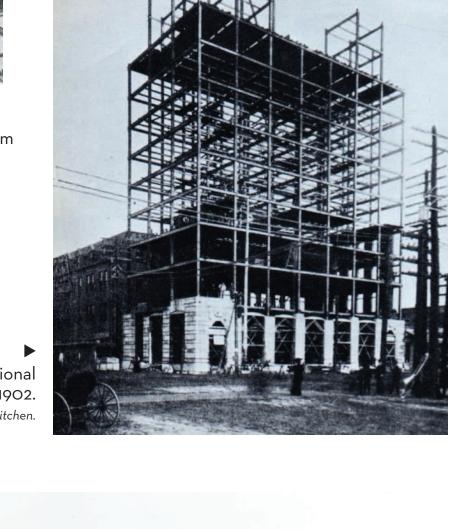


The cornice to the building was added in 1903, but later removed in the 1960s. Photograph by James W. Kitchen.



An early twentieth century postcard of the view from the Skyscraper. Image courtesy of Capitol Places.





For a nearly a decade the National Loan & Exchange Bank Building stood as the tallest structure in Columbia. Photograph courtesy of the Richland County Public Library.

ow known as the Barringer Building, this twelve-story structure on the corner of Main and Washington Streets once towered over downtown as the first skyscraper built in Columbia. The architectural firm Brite & Bacon of New York

designed the building for Edwin Robertson, president of the National Loan and Exchange Bank, the largest bank in the state. Trained as a draftsman at McKim, Mead & White, James Brite formed a partnership with fellow firm alum Henry Bacon in 1897. Their partnership dissolved in 1902, but not before the two collaborated in designing Columbia's skyscraper. Brite worked alone until his death 1930, designing mainly suburban residences with Georgian Revival influences. Bacon later became best known for his design of the Lincoln Memorial.

The National Loan and Exchange Bank Building opened in 1903. It was better known as simply "the Skyscraper." As it was the tallest structure in the state and much of the south, people often identified their location in reference to their mileage from the Skyscraper. The excessive height of the building was achievable due to construction technology developed in Chicago during the 1880s, such as electric elevators and high-pressure water systems.

The building was designed in the Georgian Revival Style, with decorated upper and lower floors constructed of rusticated limestone. A cantilevered bronze cornice originally encircled the roof, but it was removed in 1965 due to safety concerns. The building housed the National Loan and Exchange Bank as well as other smaller companies through the 1930s, such as law offices, lending businesses and insurance companies.

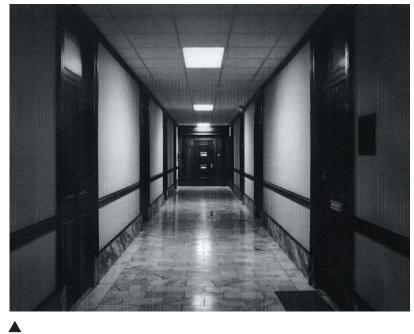
From 1935 to 1942 the Works Progress Administration occupied several floors of the building. The building was sold to the Liberty Life Insurance Company in 1938 and later transferred to the Columbia Hotel Company.

The current name of the building was adopted in 1953 when the Barringer Corporation acquired the building. Under this new ownership the structure was completely renovated, most notably with the removal of the aforementioned cornice. The Barringer Corporation held the building until 1974. In 1979 the National Loan and Exchange Bank Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bank of Columbia moved into the building in the late 1980s, but left the property years later. In 1998 HBB Associates purchased the building and worked to renovate the space. Due to the age of the building and the size of the floor plates, it was difficult to maintain tenant occupancy.

Capitol Places purchased the building in 2003 and began converting the historic structure into downtown residential space. The exterior of the building as been perfectly preserved, as have many of the interior architectural features. The lobby of the structure is identical to when it first opened for business in 1903. Also original to the building are the elevators, marble flooring, corridors, and main staircase.

Capitol Places IV opened in 2006 with seventy-five apartments in the National Loan and Exchange Bank Building, or better known now as the Barringer Building.



The building served as office space until Capitol Places purchased it in 2003. Image courtesy of Capitol Places.

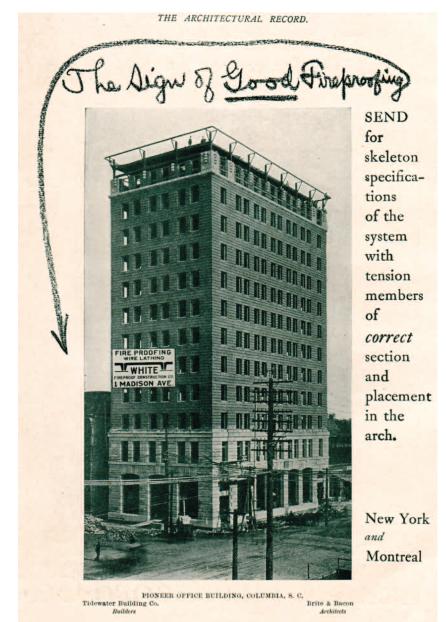


The construction of the Palmetto Building in 1912 made the National Loan & Exchange Bank Building the second tallest structure in the state.

Photograph by Walter Blanchard.



The building is constructed of brick with the first floor made of limestone. Image courtesy of Capitol Places.



A 1909 advertisement displaying the construction of the building. Image courtesy of Capitol Places.

Image courtesy of Capitol Places.

Capitol Places began renovating the Barringer Building in 2003 and reopened it as Capitol



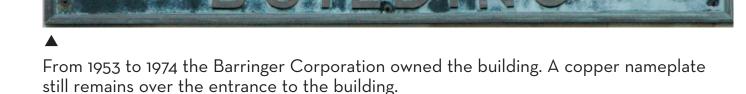
The entrance to Capitol Places IV. Image courtesy of Capitol Places.



The adaptive reuse of the Barringer Building converted the structure from office space into downtown apartments. Image courtesy of Capitol Places.



Places IV three years later. Image courtesy of Capitol Places



## A FINANCIAL STRONGHOLD

## THE NATIONAL LOAN & EXCHANGE BANK

OF COLUMBIA, S. C.



Surplus and Profits, \$300,000.00 Capital, \$500,000.00 Deposits, \$3,000,000.00

EDWARD EHRLICH, V.-President EDWIN W. ROBERTSON, President T. B. STACKHOUSE, V.-President E. C. CATHCART, Asst. Cashier G. M. BERRY, Cashier

Good accounts desired and liberally appreciated. Having the largest capital of any bank in South Carolina, we are prepared to handle satisfactorily all classes of legitimate bank business.

[See Other Side of the Page]

A 1913 advertisement for the National Loan & Exchange Bank, the largest bank in the state at the time. Image courtesy of South Caroliniana Library.