

constructed in 1906-1907

## Manistee County Savings Bank • 375 River Street



### **ARCHTECT - Albert E. Colcord of Chicago**

*The three-story building was constructed of Bedford limestone. Its frontage on River Street was divided roughly in half at the first floor, the east half containing two stores, and the west half containing the main banking room and support facilities; a stairway separated the two sides. The second floor housed twenty-two offices, each with gas and electric lighting as well as water and telephone connections. The third floor originally served as the lodge room, billiard room, and dining room of the Knights of Pythias.*

*The original main banking room was grandly furnished and decorated. A vestibule of white ceramic tile and marble opened through wrought iron and glass grille doors onto a large central banking room. Mahogany, marble, and burlap in shades of brown and orange covered the walls. Banking counters had marble bases and marble counters accented with bronze grilles. Ionic columns of marble supported a coffered, ornamental plaster ceiling painted an ivory color. Elaborate lighting fixtures of copper completed the décor. To the sides of the vestibule was a director's room complete with a long mahogany table and a large Tiffany lamp, a men's waiting room, a women's banking room, and offices. At the rear of the main room were more offices and the vaults. The main vault for cash and safety deposit boxes weighed 52,000 pounds and had walls created by various layers of steel and concrete totaling over two feet in thickness.*

*The exterior of the Saving Bank was designed in the style of the Second Renaissance Revival. The bank side of the building features engaged rusticated stone columns at its ends, at the corner and between the bays, and engaged columns of the Ionic order standing two stories in height in between. The storefront half of the building is very simple in treatment compared to the bank portion. A rectangular pilaster of rusticated stone extends the full height of the building to frame the east end.*

**Manistee Commercial Historic District – listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places**