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BANKING & FINANCE

Savannah Firms Design, Build First Glynn's Newest Branch

First Glynn Bank, a division of First Chatham Bank, opened its second branch on April 1. The new branch is in Brunswick at Georgia Highway 25 and Altama Avenue in a commercial development known as Glynn Isles Market, and it joins a St. Simons location in operation since First Glynn began in 2007.

The new bank is designed by Lott + Barber, a Savannah-based commercial architecture, sustainable design and land-planning firm. The cost of the branch was put at \$1.4 million.

The new bank in Brunswick is the eighth branch designed by Lott + Barber, Inc. for parent company FCB Financial Corp. The stately, 5,242-square-foot brick building with a classic portico entrance was built by J.T. Turner Construction Company, Inc. of Savannah and will include three loan offices as well as offices for First Glynn Bank Senior Vice President John Laws and Vice President Sharon Spradley.

Consulting engineers on the project included W. Hunter Saussy III, P.E., Thomas & Hutton Engineering Company and Smith & VandenBulck, LLC.

"This strategic new branch will enable us to better serve our customers in the



Architect's rendering of First Glynn's newest branch

Brunswick and Golden Isles area," said Mike Viers, president of First Chatham Bank. "Glynn County is a fast-growing part of Georgia, so we want to make sure that we offer the ultimate banking opportunities for customers at First Glynn Bank."

The bank branch will have four teller line positions and three drive-through lanes – including an ATM lane. An official ribbon cutting is scheduled for May 9.

"We're delighted to design another suc-

cessful branch for the First Chatham Bank family," said Forrest Lott, AIA, principal of Lott + Barber, in a prepared statement. "Glynn County residents will have the opportunity to enjoy a state-of-the-art banking facility with a number of innovative features."

For example, the high-tech vault entrance at the new bank uses a palm-recognition system connected to door hardware. This innovative system allows customers to access safety deposit boxes

without assistance from bank personnel.

Another impressive safety feature of the building is the ability to operate select building functions remotely using an Internet connection. This system also catalogs which bank personnel operated each door.

The new bank also features a community room with seating for 10. The space will be accessible after regular business hours via special locks. The community room features a wall-mounted LCD screen for multi-media presentations.

First Glynn Bank originally opened on St. Simons Island in April of 2007 under the leadership of President Ken Farrell. Its Web site is www.firstglynn.com. The St. Simons branch is at 1607 Frederica Road.

Lott + Barber was founded in 1990 and has been honored with numerous design awards over the years, including Historic Preservation awards from Historic Savannah Foundation, Excellence in Architecture awards from the American Institute of Architects and a National Award for Outstanding Technical Merit in Metropolitan Transportation Planning from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.