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On November 22, 1882, The Bank of Versailles began business. The Bank of Versailles was located in the same building as the Kelsay Bank and used the same vault and equipment. The bank purchased its first time-locked safe in 1908. All records were kept by hand until 1916, when a secondhand bookkeeping machine was installed. However, because Versailles did not have daytime electrical service, the machine still had to be operated manually.

In 1918, the bank purchased the furniture store building to the east and completely remodeled its facilities, more than doubling its size. At that time, a second vault for safe deposit boxes was constructed, new marble fixtures were installed, and the columns that remain a distinctive part of the bank's appearance today were added to the front of the building.

Despite financial difficulties in 1926 caused by declining farm prices and land values, the bank successfully reorganized and raised new capital. The Bank of Versailles remained open during the banking crisis that followed the 1929 stock market crash, while many surrounding banks either closed or restricted withdrawals. Conditions worsened nationwide until March 6, 1933, when banks were ordered to close as President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a nationwide bank holiday. Although the four Morgan County banks closed temporarily, The Bank of Versailles reopened to provide limited services, including making change and allowing customers access to their safe deposit boxes.

During World War II, banks played an important role beyond traditional banking services. The Bank of Versailles helped administer government rationing programs for commodities such as sugar and shoes, distributing ration stamps that regulated the purchase of goods deemed necessary by the federal government.

In 1958, the bank underwent a major remodel. Ceilings were lowered, teller stations were relocated to the east side of the building, loan offices were established on the west side, and a new safe deposit vault was constructed to provide additional fireproof storage.

The Versailles Drive-In Facility opened in 1970. In 1974, the bank purchased the former Clodfelter Jewelry Store and created a direct connection to the main bank lobby, converting the space into an expanded loan department. Full-service banking expanded further in 1977 with the opening of the Laurie Branch, followed by construction of a dedicated Laurie banking facility in 1984.

Continued growth led to the opening of the Greenvue Branch in 1997. That same year, the bank purchased the former Knoop's General Store and Bob's Sundries buildings adjacent



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to the main bank, allowing for expanded loan offices, additional office space, and a larger customer lobby.

In 2001, the bank purchased the former Ben Franklin building and converted the space into loan offices and bookkeeping operations. The bank continued to invest in the Versailles community by purchasing the former Colvin Store building in 2007, now home to World Craft and Thrift, and the building that currently houses State Farm. in 2016. Expansion at the Lake of the Ozarks continued with the opening of the Shawnee Bend Branch in 2015.

From its beginnings in 1882, The Bank of Versailles has grown through careful expansion, strategic investment, and a steadfast commitment to the communities it serves. For more than 140 years, the bank has remained locally owned and focused on meeting the financial needs of the families, businesses, and communities that have contributed to its success.



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