

History and evolution of the Wilton Manors National Bank

The 1953 Turner/Dean fantasy vision for a multi-million dollar *Manor Gate Shopping Center* included a bank.

But in the early 1950s the State of Florida had extremely complex and restrictive banking laws. Branch banks were prohibited. Each physical location had to be separately chartered and capitalized. To avoid this limitation on expansion, major banks would provide “seed money” and expertise to create and charter new local banks. Then later purchase them through a holding company. This may have been the case for the *Wilton Manors National Bank*.



While some earlier historical accounts attribute the establishment of the bank to Dean, Turner and local business leaders, they were more likely simply the charter Board of Directors. The most current, credible information has the bank actually being founded/established by **C.D. Dyal, Jr.** Dyal, Jr. was the son of a major banker in St. Petersburg associated with a holding company run by the duPont estate. Before arriving in Wilton Manors he was Vice President of the **First National Bank of Orlando**.

The bank opened for business in **April 1955** with deposits of \$1,546,233. It remained under the leadership of Dyal, Jr. until his death in **1974**. It was that year that “Ginny” Pearce, who joined the bank as a teller in 1956, became its first female officer. Ginny recalled Dyal, Jr. as *“brilliant and caring and wanted to help others become successful ... and everyone wanted to live up to his trust”*.

Soon after his death in **1974**, the bank was purchased by **Sun Bank**. Sun Bank was a holding company formed from Dyal, Jr.'s former First National Bank of Orlando. Coincidence or irony ... you decide.

In **1985**, Sun Bank merged with the Trust Company of Georgia to form **SunTrust Banks**; and a **2019** merger with BB&T became what is known today as **Truist**



The original bank building was expanded and reconfigured under Sun Bank/SunTrust. But around **2012** SunTrust began downsizing locally, and built today's smaller branch. The original building was occupied by the **Unity Church of Ft. Lauderdale** through **2015**. It is now an office building. The original drive-through teller building is now Starbucks.

For more images and ephemera from the Wilton Manors National Bank see <https://wmhistory.org/#WMNatlBank>