

# BANK

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the defunct bank were not warned of the plan until earlier Friday.

"We try to avoid a run on the bank and make as smooth a transition as possible," O'Donnell said.

Customers could be seen knocking on the bank's locked door up until the scheduled 6 p.m. closing time, only to be turned away by a Cuba city police officer on hand to provide additional security for the FDIC.

A handful of customers interviewed outside the bank all said they were surprised by the closing, and a couple indicated that they found it a bit unsettling to be separated from their personal savings by lock and key.

"My family's got thousands of dollars in there," exclaimed Calvin Grindle of Cuba. "In a way, yes, I am worried."

Another customer, Rudy Tompkins of Maples Mill, was visibly angered by the surprise bank closing.

"I plowed through this snowstorm all the way to cash my check so we can get some groceries before 6 o'clock," Tompkins said.

"And he wouldn't let me in," Tompkins snapped, pointing at the police officer standing guard behind the bank's glass door. "Now I know why."

The Illinois Commissioner of Banks, in a prepared statement, announced Friday that the bank had been closed because of excessive losses on loans and "the bank's inability to generate sufficient income to provide adequate protection to its depositors."

The last time a bank failed in Fulton County was in 1982, when the Farmers State Bank of Lewistown closed. A former president of that bank and a local financial consultant later were convicted in a \$2.3 million embezzling scheme.

O'Donnell said Friday he attributes the Cuba bank's failure, at this point, to an excess of bad loans. But he said a routine year-long investigation by the FDIC will determine whether any criminal investigation ought to be undertaken.

The president of the bank and a member of its board of directors, Margie Zaborac, could not be reached for comment. She was said to be at the bank until late Friday, working on the transition with officials from the National Bank of Canton.

A majority of the bank's stock is owned by a company called Cuba Bancorporation Inc.

A Bloomington couple, Wayne and Linda Grove, both of whom also sit on the bank's board, own 80 percent of that company. They were unavailable for comment Friday.

Others on the bank's board of directors are George S. Baylor, Chester E. Jacobus and Henry Tarter.