

VLR-11/21/78 NRHP-5/7/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Old Merchants and Farmers Bank Building (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON Old Public Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South Main Street

CITY, TOWN Emporia VICINITY OF Fourth (Robert W. Daniel)

STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY (in City) CODE 595

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING ( )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Douglas Summers Brown, Director, Historic Sites

STREET & NUMBER Greenville County Historical Society, 815 Peachtree Street

CITY, TOWN Emporia STATE Virginia 23847

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Emporia City Hall

STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN Emporia STATE Virginia 23847

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE July 1378  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN Richmond STATE Virginia 23219

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Merchants and Farmers Bank is located in the midst of the downtown commercial district on South Main Street in Emporia. The building is a one-story, concave mansard-roof brick structure set on a low brick foundation. Eclectic in style, the edifice was erected in 1902.

The west facade contains the principal entrance. The yellow brick segmental-arch doorway consists of a simply framed, glass-paned and paneled double door surmounted by a multi-paned, crisscross-patterned transom. The doorway is flanked by yellow brick segmental-headed windows containing 1/1 hung sash. A simple recessed brick panel is found under the windows. Paired brick pilasters define each of the facade's three bays. Each bay features a recessed spandrel panel of yellow brick containing a red brick insert. A yellow brick corbelled course runs the length of the facade above the panels. The most noteworthy feature of the facade is a galvanized sheet-metal cornice which may have been manufactured by H. T. Klugel, an architectural sheet metal concern located in Emporia. Typical of Klugel's work, the cornice consists of paired brackets and modillions supporting a molded fascia. Above the fascia rises a central pediment dated "1902." The facade is laid in stretcher bond.

The south elevation consists of four bays, with 4/4 hung-sash, segmental-headed windows. The north and south elevations, laid in seven-course American bond, are both ornamented by a finely executed corbelled brick cornice. Fenestration on the north elevation consists of three windows identical to those found on the east elevation. An exterior chimney stack is found between the northwestern windows. The rear (east) elevation, also executed in seven-course American bond, remains unpierced.

The two-room interior is undistinguished and is presently in a state of neglect and disrepair. Plans for its restoration are currently under consideration by the Greensville County Historical Society which hopes to make the building its headquarters.

RCC

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property, approximately 2500 square feet, is slightly larger than the property conveyed from the Wood family by deed to the Farmers & Merchants Bank on 25 February 1902. According to the 1948 deed of title, the property is bound on the north by the Woodruff lot, on the east by land formerly owned by the Emporia Peanut Co., on the south by an alley, and on the west by Main Street.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Merchants and Farmers Bank building exemplifies the architectural elaboration characteristic of even the most diminutive commercial buildings of the early twentieth century. With its mansard roof and richly ornamented sheet-metal cornice, the building is a miniature version of the imposing stores and office blocks that gave turn-of-the-century America's main streets such visually delightful pomposity. Although its interior suffered alterations to accommodate various uses, the building's exterior is essentially unchanged from the construction date of 1902, proudly displayed in the pediment atop the cornice.

William Edward Bailey, a prominent Emporia businessman, was the bank's first president. In 1914 the bank had outgrown the space and moved to another location on South Main Street. The building was then purchased by Etheldred Peyton Turner, who converted it into law offices and shared it with L. Ralph Slagle. During the years of his law practice, Turner was elected county Commonwealth's attorney and was president of the bar for the Third Judicial Circuit.

In 1948 the Town of Emporia purchased the building from Mrs. Turner. The public library, founded in 1931 by the Woman's Club, had outgrown the room provided for them in the courthouse and moved into the old bank building. A new library was built in 1977.

In May 1977 the Greensville County Historical Society petitioned the county Board of Supervisors, asking "that the building be given, or leased to it..." In November 1977 the building was deeded to the Historical Society for use as a headquarters, museum, and archives.

Although built as a narrow one-story structure, the building achieves a sense of monumentality through the use of a mansard roof and a decorative Klugel-type cornice. H. T. Klugel came to Emporia in 1902 and established a sheet metal works that specialized in decorative cornices. Although not documented, the bank building's cornice is typical of Klugel's design. The contrasting use of red and yellow brick within a classical vocabulary contributes to the building's sense of urbanity.

RCC

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Old Merchants and Farmers Bank Building, Emporia, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greensville County Deed Books 22, 32.

Greensville County Plat Book 1.

Greensville County Will Book 13.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brooke, The Reverend Oliver K. "Green Light." The Independent Messenger. March 1977.
- Brown, Douglas Summers, ed. Greensville County, Virginia, 1650-1967.
- \_\_\_\_\_, "Notes." Historical Documentation. November 1977 - June 1978. Handwritten and mimeographed.
- Flythe, Dora Bailey. "Preservation of Library Requested." The Independent Messenger. 11 August 1977.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Emporia, Virginia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	2, 7, 2	7, 7, 0	4, 0, 6, 2	7, 1, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					
E					
G					

B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
D					
F					
H					

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on the east side of Main Street measuring 23.40' on the front; thence extending 87.7' to the rear in an easterly direction; thence extending 33' SW on the rear; thence extending 83' on the S side of the building W to the front line.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff		
ORGANIZATION	Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATE	October 1978
STREET & NUMBER	221 Governor Street	TELEPHONE	(804) 786-3144
CITY OR TOWN	Richmond	STATE	Virginia 23219

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE NOV 21 1978

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

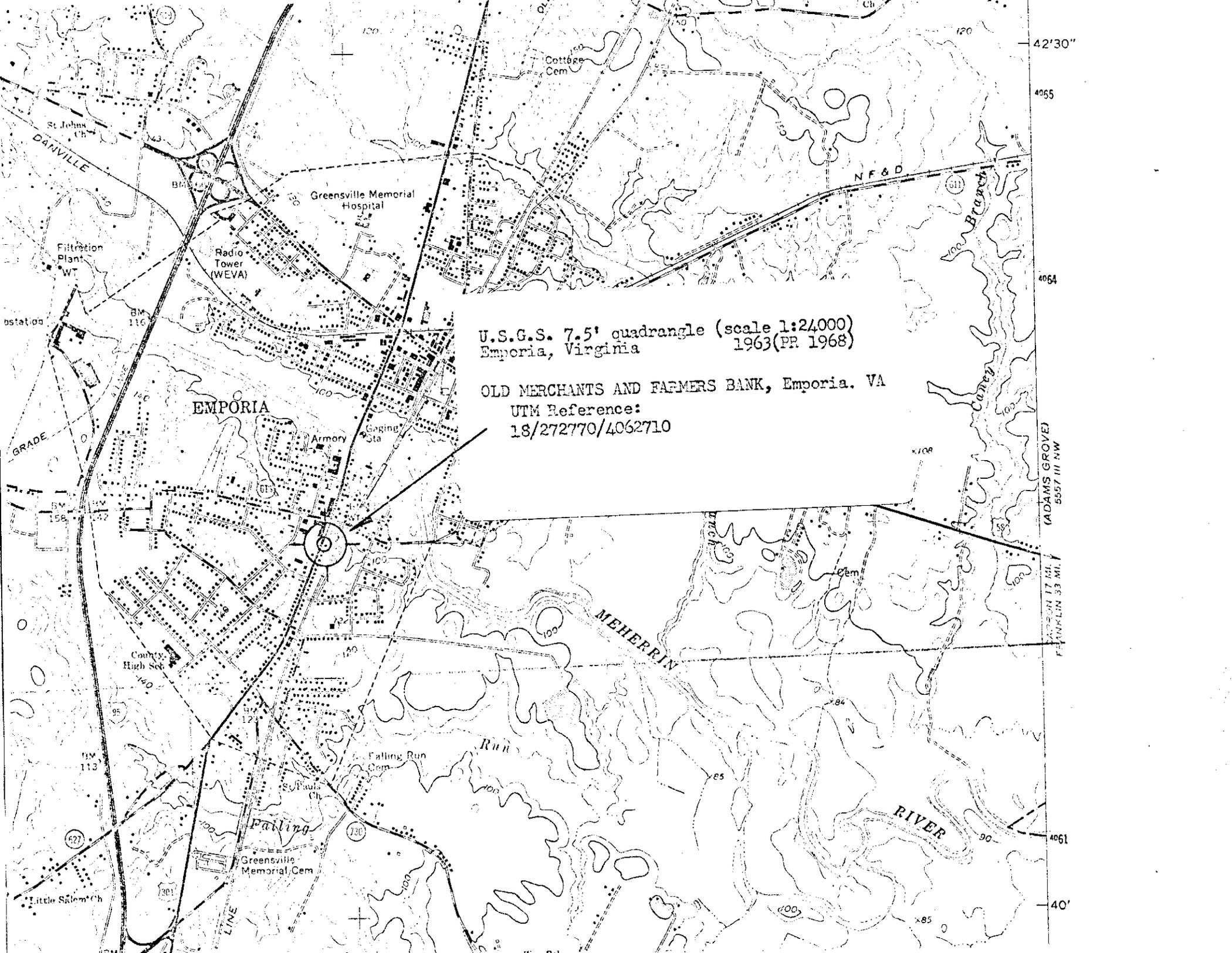
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)  
Emporia, Virginia 1963 (PR 1968)

OLD MERCHANTS AND FARMERS BANK, Emporia. VA  
UTM Reference:  
18/272770/4062710

42'30"  
4065  
4064  
4061  
40'  
ADAMS GROVE  
5557 III NW  
FRANKLIN 33 MI.  
17 MI.