

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

VLR: 12/19/75 NRHP: 6/19/79

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

National Valley Bank (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

United Virginia Bank/National Valley

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

12-64 West Beverley Street

NOT FOR JURISDICTION

CITY, TOWN

Staunton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

in City

CODE

790

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

United Virginia Bank/National Valley c/o President

STREET & NUMBER

12-14 West Beverley Street (or P. O. Box 1269 - mailing)

CITY, TOWN

Staunton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

City Hall; Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

109-113 East Beverley Street

CITY, TOWN

Staunton

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Staunton Foundation Architectural Inventory

DATE

April 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Staunton Foundation Office

CITY, TOWN

Staunton

STATE

Virginia 24401

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

National Valley Bank is an attached, one-story building located on Staunton's main commercial street. It is constructed of granite, brick and carved limestone. The roof is flat, except for the protruding skylight.

The Bank was designed by the local architectural firm of T. J. Collins & Son and built in 1903. One of the finest Beaux-Arts designs in Western Virginia, it was based on the ancient Roman Arch of Titus. Another idea for the design may have come from Boston's Castle Square Theater which appeared in the December, 1894 issue of the Brickbuilder, which was in the library of T. J. Collins & Son's office.

Using the triumphal arch form enabled Collins to respect the two-story scale of the surrounding buildings without compromising the unity of the classical three-bay facade. The impostes of the arch are developed into an entablature above the entrance. The attic story above the entablature is actually a parapet wall capped with Greek antefixae and decorated with a circular motif set in rectangular panels. The three-part classical entablature consists of an undecorated frieze and architrave and elaborately carved modillion blocks, egg-and-dart molding and dentils in the cornice.

Semi-engaged, fluted columns, of the Corinthian order, flank the central arched entrance. The large wall spaces between the columns are reduced by the use of windows topped with elaborate cartouches (in the left one is the founding date of the bank, 1865, and in the right one, the date of this building, 1903) and small, circular stained-glass windows set in raised, square panels.

The main entrance arch is decorated with egg-and-dart molding and surrounds a semicircular stained-glass window. The door frame is heavily decorated with carved panels. The original revolving door is set behind the pocket doors which are the main closures.

According to a photograph of the bank in a 1906 news magazine, the present facade appears to be totally original and unaltered.

The Interior:

The coffered plaster ceiling was done by the Baltimore firm of J. G. Valliant & Co. It consists of 12 square panels, separated by beams decorated with a flattened leaf motif; a boss of acanthus leaves appears at each of the eight beam intersections. Each of these 12 panels is subdivided into 9 square panels. The entire ceiling is decorated with an overall honeycomb pattern overlaid with rosettes and foliated scrollwork.

(to continuation sheet #1)

8 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 type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" 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 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT T. J. Collins & Son, Staunton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The National Valley Bank has been Staunton's most notable bank since its founding in November of 1865. Its founder and first president was General John Echols, who served in the Confederate forces during the Civil War. Due to the postwar economic conditions, Gen. Echols had some difficulty securing local subscriptions to his new bank and had to journey to Baltimore in search of stockholders. Here, he solicited from many prominent citizens, including Johns Hopkins and Enoch Pratt (incidentally, the Johns Hopkins Hospital was National Valley's largest single shareholder until the great Baltimore fire of 1904 forced that institution to sell out to Staunton interests). Over the years, National Valley Bank's Board of Directors has included many illustrious Stauntonians. One of the most prominent was Gen. Echols' son, Senator Edward Echols, who served in both branches of the Virginia legislature and was Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1898-1902. Edward Echols also served as the Bank's third president from 1905-1915.

The National Valley Bank was originally housed in Staunton at the corner of Beverley and Market Streets. In 1875, the Bank merged with First National Bank of Staunton, but the name National Valley Bank was retained. It was during the next thirty years that Staunton experienced its greatest period of growth and expansion and National Valley Bank grew along with it.

The present building is a monument to the Bank's success. Built in 1903, at a cost of about \$50,000, no expense seems to have been spared to make it a showpiece. Craftsmen were brought in from Baltimore to make the coffered ceiling. Materials used in the interior included marble, bronze, mahogany and stained glass. The furniture and fittings were brought in from Cincinnati.

National Valley Bank is one of Western Virginia's finest examples of Beaux-Arts architecture. The facade is completely original and, although the interior has undergone at least two remodelings, the upper walls, ceiling and skylight are completely intact. Most of the original marble partitions and much of the mahogany woodwork still remains. The original floor was replaced during one of the remodelings.

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The 12-panel ceiling surrounds a magnificent, domed skylight of stained-glass (approximately 10' x 34') executed in green, brown, mauve, blue and various shades of gold. The flattened leaf motif is repeated in the glass.

The three-part entablature rests on fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals. The cornice has egg-and-dart molding and dentils, and the frieze is decorated with a foliated scroll pattern; the architrave is undecorated.

Each wall area delineated by the pilasters contains a rectangular plaster panel with a smooth oval inset. The "frame" thus formed around the oval is highly decorated with the honeycomb motif, a foliage cartouche in each corner and a rosette boss in the middle of each side. There are five panels along each of the two side walls and three on the end wall opposite the entrance. In this end wall, the central panel is wider and the oval contains the bank's original clock, which is surrounded by elaborate plaster scrollwork.

The entrance wall features the original revolving door, recessed into a solid marble entranceway which echoes the three-bay triumphal arch form of the bank's exterior. The pilasters, attic story and three-part entablature are all undecorated. Above this marble entrance, which is flanked by an office on either side, is the semi-circular stained-glass window surrounded by egg-and-dart molding. The small circular stained-glass windows above the two flanking offices are surrounded by elaborate foliage plaster scrollwork.

Of the two side offices, only the President's office still retains the mahogany enclosure. Again, egg-and-dart molding occurs in the cornice line. The frieze has a fleur-de-lis design, and the pilasters have Ionic capitals and ribbon and wheat-ear drop carvings. The mirrored door also has egg-and-dart molding.

Although the interior has been remodeled at least twice, most of the material above head level is still in its original state. The major changes have been the floor and the teller cages. The original floor of hexagonal tiles has been replaced with a plainer one of rectangular stone blocks. A photo taken in the mid-1920's shows the original teller cages running around three walls in a "U" shape. Those along the left wall have been removed completely to enlarge the lobby and to grant a more spacious entranceway to the adjoining

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7,9 PAGE 2

7. DESCRIPTION

Trust Department (this building was also designed by the firm of T. J. Collins & Son in 1922). The remaining teller spaces along the right wall and far wall still have the waist-high marble partitions, but the elaborate grillwork teller cages are gone, replaced during one of the remodelings with much plainer grilles.

The original building had a small, rectangular service bay at the back of the main room. This bay has been remodeled and enlarged to accommodate clerical workers and a drive-up teller window.

WF

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The National Valley Bank." Staunton Daily News (Illustrated Edition), July, 1896.

"National Valley Bank." The Staunton Leader (Augusta County Bicentennial Edition), April 16, 1949, sec. 5, p. 13.

"National Valley Bank." Staunton - The Queen City, 1761-1906. The Dispatch and News (Historical and Industrial Number). Staunton: Augusta Printing Corporation, 1906.

National Valley Bank Architectural Drawings. Office of T. J. Collins & Son, Architects, Staunton, Virginia, 1903.

"Speaking of Estates." Staunton: McClure Company, Inc. (This is an undated promotional brochure printed for National Valley Bank).

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National Valley Bank, Staunton, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description - 12-14 West Beverley Street

Legal Description - City Engineer's Map #375, 1958. Block DD, Lot 4.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Bill. "First Bank in Staunton was Started in 1847." The Staunton Leader (Area Bicentennial Edition), July 2, 1976.

Frazier, William T. "T. J. Collins: A Local Virginia Architect and His Practice at the Turn of the Century." M. A. Thesis, University of Virginia, 1976. (cont. p. 2, item 9)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	6,6,8	8,3,0	4,2	2,3	9,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of the building and the land on which it sits.

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

William T. Frazier, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Historic Staunton Foundation, Inc.

DATE

November 10, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 2534

TELEPHONE

(703) 885-7676

CITY OR TOWN

Staunton

STATE

Virginia 24401

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 SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 19 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

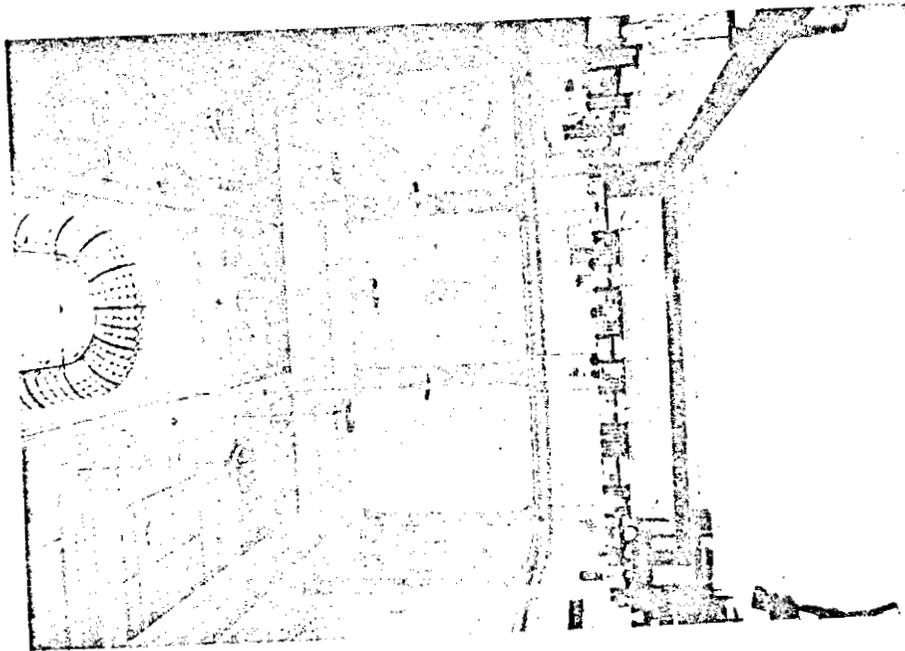
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION



Interior View of President's Office



Interior View

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
1964 (PR1978)
Staunton, Va.

NATIONAL VALLEY BANK, Staunton, Va.
UTM References:

17/668830/4223920

