

160-13

VLR-5/21/74, NRHP-7/23/74

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Accomack
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
 (Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce) OLD MERCANTILE BUILDING
 AND/OR HISTORIC:
 Bank Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
 No. 1 Court House Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Accomack CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
 First (Thomas N. Downing)
 STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Accomack CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>offices</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
 Anita Conquest, Executive Secretary
 The Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 Box 147, No. 1 Court House Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Accomack STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

STATE: Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
 Accomack County Court House
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Accomack STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

COUNTY: Accomack

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built around 1820 by Michael Higgins and Alexander McCollom, the Bank Building is Accomack County's best preserved Federal-style commercial building. Designed along a longitudinal axis, the Bank is a two-story brick structure above a full basement. Although the southeast facade and foundations to the off-set watertable were stuccoed and scored to simulate ashlar masonry at a later date, the remaining walls have their brickwork exposed. Ornamented with beautifully executed Flemish bond with king closers around the windows and doors, unadorned wooden lintels with splayed ends, and an original modillion cornice with a delicately detailed fretwork frieze, the Bank Building retains a great deal of its original architectural charm. A single interior-end chimney with a rebuilt stack serves the rear office. Although the first floor entrance doors have been altered, an original flush-paneled six-panel door survives on the second floor level of the southeast facade indicating the arrangement of a now vanished cat's head and hoist for the raising of merchandise to the second floor storage area. Directly over the second floor door in the gable end is an exceptionally fine period fanlight with a simply molded architrave and unadorned wooden keystone. Access to the cellar is gained through an early, though rebuilt, shed bulkhead entrance.

The interior trim of the Bank Building has been masked on the first floor by modern alterations, although it reputedly retains an early ogee cornice behind the present veneer of sheet rock. The mantel in the present office while reflecting the original period of construction is not original to the building, but was moved from a dismantled early-nineteenth-century office. Because of its use as a storage area the second floor interior was originally left roughly finished.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by Michael Higgins and Alexander McCollom shortly after their joint purchase of a quarter-acre lot in Drummondtown in 1819, the Bank Building originally housed one of Accomack County's principal mercantile enterprises. In 1825 Michael Higgins died intestate and McCollom purchased his partner's interest from the heirs. Four years later in his own will, McCollom specified that the store continue in operation until his son James came of age and was able to assume the financial responsibility of these two operations.

After several subsequent ownerships, the Bank Building, referred to in property title by this time as the Brick Store, was purchased in 1867 by Dr. Edward Young. Dr. Young in turn willed the building to his granddaughter Sarah and her husband Thomas W. Blackstone. Blackstone established his banking business there, and this gave the building its present name. Until its merger with the Eastern Shore Citizens' Bank of Onancock, Thomas Blackstone's bank was a privately owned banking enterprise. The Bank Building is now owned and maintained by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Beautifully preserved, the Bank Building is one of Virginia's finest high-style Federal-period commercial buildings. With its delicate exterior detailing and interesting treatment of interior spaces the structure survives, despite minor alterations, as an extremely refined illustration of the combination of pragmatic mercantile requirements with early-nineteenth-century architectural style.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Whitelaw, Ralph, Virginia's Eastern Shore, 1951.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37 ° 43 ' 10 "	75 ° 40 ' 16 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: May, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date MAY 21 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

EASTERN SHORE CHAMBER OF COMERCE

LATITUDE: 37°43'10"

Longitude: 75°40'16"

