Form 10-300 (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR --NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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North Carol	ine.
COUNTY:	
Beaufort	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bank of Washington is a temple-form building with a prostyle tetrastyle Ionic portico on the south (main) facade. This facade is of rusticated stucco on brick. The central entrance and flanking windows are each surmounted by a small unacademic pediment above a row of large dentils. The portico has a full entablature with a row of dentils embellishing the cornice. The entablature carries around three sides of the building.

The east and west sides have four bays separated by pilasters. The second bay on both sides originally contained a window surmounted by a pediment. The openings have been bricked up leaving the pediments intact. The third bay contains a window beneath an unusual segmental band of molded headers.

The north gable is not pedimented and has been altered by the construction of several additions. The interior consists of one large room which has been completely remodeled with only the original heavy window frames and entablatures remaining.

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The Bank of Washington was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly on January 22, 1851. Among the founders were E.J. Warren and George H. Brown. Warren distinguished himself as the speaker pro tem of the state Senate during the impeachment of Governor William W. Holden in 1871. Brown was also a prominent political figure and served as an associate justice of the state supreme court.

On May 10, 1854, the Bank of Washington acquired one-third of Lot 19 in the Respess Town section of Washington. Two weeks later the bank's directors placed the following advertisement in the Raleigh News and Observer:

"The directors of the Bank of Washington wish to contract for the erection of a banking house, in the Town of Washington. . . . The front gable is to extend so as to form a Portico supported by four columns. Walls of brick, stuccoed to resemble stone, with fire proof roof. . . "

The bank was erected soon afterward according to these specifications and continued in operation until Union troops invaded the town during the War Between the States. The bank was reorganized in 1893 and is presently the West End Branch of the Bank of Washington. It is a fine example of antebellum bank design and is one of the few remaining small commercial buildings in North Carolina built in the unusually monumental temple-form idiom.

Beaufort County Records, Beaufort County Courthouse, Washington, North Carolina. Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

Beaufort County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

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(July 1988)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF MISTORIC PLACES

North Carolina
county
Beaufort
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

## INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9.

Reed, C. Wingate. Beaufort County, Two Centuries of History. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1962.

Waterman, Thomas Tileston: The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.



