Lorm 10-300 (July 1969)

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

	STATE:						
	North Carolina						
COUNTY:							
Cumberland FOR NPS USE ONLY							

	NAME						
	COMMON:						
	Market House						_
	AND/OR HISTORIC:						
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	CONDITION	Excellent	Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	<ul><li>Unexposed</li></ul>	
	CONDITION		(Check Or	10)		(Che	ock One)	
		☐ Alte	re d	✓ Unaltered		☐ Moved	Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There are numerous examples of eighteenth-century English town halls with an open arcaded ground floor, a second story containing one or more public rooms, and a hipped roof sumounted by a cupola. Two examples which have been compared to the Fayetteville Market House are the town halls of South Shields and Stockton-on-Tees, both in northeastern England. A better known town hall is the one designed by Sir Christopher Wren in Abingdon, Berkshire. The similarity of the Fayetteville building to these English examples is marked, but, since its architect is unknown, it is impossible to determine which of these served as its model.

The Market House sits in the center of the intersection of four of the city's main thoroughfares. The north and south sides on axis with Green and Gillespie Streets are the more impressive. The three-bay center block features an open arcade composed of a wide semi-circular center arch with narrow pointed arches on each side. There are one-story wings featuring single elliptical arches on either side. The wings have a classical balustrade punctuated by solid paneled pedestals. Above the belt course of the main block there are three bays divided by Ionic pilasters. In each bay is a tall arched window. The hipped roof is crowned by an elaborate cupola, the design of which was certainly inspired by those of Wren and Gibbs. The lower section of the cupola is square in plan, has attenuated Ionic columns at the corners, and features a round clock face on all four sides. At each corner of the splayed roof is an obelisk. The upper section of the cupola is octagonal and has a low domical roof surmounted by a weathervane finial.

The east and west sides on axis with Person and May Streets are only three bays wide. They are like the north and south sides except that the first floor arcades project forming flat esplanades at the second floor level which are served by the double doors beneath lunettes which occupy the center bays on either facade.

On the interior, the second floor takes the form of one large room. The windows, doors, and their surrounds are original, but the rest of the fabric has been renewed at various periods

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SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century		
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (Il Applicable	e and Known) 1838	1832	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	ck One or More as Approp	oriate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	History
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1838, the Market House in Fayetteville was constructed on a site which may have been the location of the building used by the General Assembly from 1788 to 1793 when Fayetteville was the "temporary capital" of North Carolina. As originally planned, the Market House performed two functions: under its arches meat and produce were sold by local farmers, while the second floor served as the Town Hall. Since then it has ceased to be used as a market house and the second floor has served as a library and offices for the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. In March of 1865, the Market House was the scene of several skirmishes between the forces of General Sherman and generals Hardie, Wade Hampton, and Wheeler. In 1906 the threatened destruction of the Market House was prevented by the formation of the Civil Improvement Society. The society, now the Fayetteville Womans Club, maintains the property by way of a lease given to them in 1906 by the City Council.

At various celebrations, held in the city of Fayetteville, a number of distinguished people have spoken from the Market House balconies. Among these are North Carolina Governor Zebulon B. Vance, Senator Matt W. Ransom, General John J. Pershing, William Jennings Bryan, and Chief Justice Walter Clark.

The Market House continues to be the focal point of downtown Fayetteville. The hours are chimed by the clock, and in addition the bell in the cupola still rings at 7:30 for breakfast, 1:00 for dinner, at sundown, and at 9:00 which was the curfew hour for slaves.

Architecturally the design of the Market House is unique in North Carolina. It is one of the few structures in America which employs the town hall-market scheme found in England. Though not as architectonic as some English examples it was as functional and well designed as many of them.

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	Cumberland County Records, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, North Carolina.										
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9. MAJOR BIOLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## **National Register of Historic Places** Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Correction to nomination for the Market House in Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina, which was entered on 15 September 1970:

In the original nomination, the date given for construction of the Market House was 1838, based on secondary sources. Recent research has revealed that a construction date of 1832 is the correct one. The May 29, 1832 issue of the Carolina Observer clearly establishes that it was built in 1832, which is validated by frequent references to the Market House in Fayetteville newspapers between 1832 and 1838.

William S. Price, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer

June 28, 1984



