

VLR-1/18/72 NRHP-4/13/72

123-67

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: PETERSBURG (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
FARMERS' BANK

AND/OR HISTORIC:
PETERSBURG BRANCH OF THE FARMERS' BANK

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
N W corner of Bollingbrook Street and Cockade Alley

CITY OR TOWN:
Petersburg (Watkins M. Abbitt, Fourth District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in city) CODE: 730

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY Mr. Conrad Akers - Director.

OWNER'S NAME:
Fort Henry Branch of Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities,

STREET AND NUMBER:
1630 Blair Road

CITY OR TOWN: Petersburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Clerk's Office of Hustings Court

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Petersburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1947 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

VIRGINIA
PETERSBURG
HUSTINGS COURT
FIDELITY & SECURITY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on Bollingbrook Street in what was once the busy commercial district of Petersburg, the Farmers' Bank stands as one of the few remaining examples of the imposing Federal structures that formerly dominated the area. Recently restored to its original appearance, the nearly square (44' X 46') four-bay brick building is three stories in height and is covered by a pyramidal roof that is almost completely hidden by a parapet. On either side of the building is a pair of interior end chimneys. The parapet, pyramidal roof, and simple molded brick cornice are reconstructions; the originals were replaced in the mid-nineteenth century with a gable roof and bracketed cornice. The facade and east wall are both laid in Flemish bond, while the rear wall and the west wall (which was built as a windowless party wall) are laid in three-course American bond. The windows on the facade and east walls have tooled sandstone sills embellished with carved keystones. The floor levels are expressed on the facade with the use of tooled sandstone belt courses. The present arrangement of openings on the ground floor of the facade (except for the west doorway, which remains in its original location) is a reconstruction of what is believed to be the original arrangement. Most of the original ground floor wall was removed in the late-nineteenth century in order to install a shop-front. Enough indications of the design of the west doorway survived so that it could be reasonably reconstructed. The design of the east doorway, or the entrance to the banking section, was also based on the evidence found on the west doorway.

The small rear yard of the bank originally contained a brick smokehouse and a brick guard house, each with outside dimensions of 12' X 12'. These two buildings have long since disappeared, but reconstructions of them have been placed on their sites. Across the rear of the yard was a two-story brick kitchen, measuring 38' X 20'. The first floor of the front wall of this kitchen survives, and it is expected that the rest of the building will be reconstructed.

The interior of the Farmers' Bank is divided into the banking section on the first floor and the living quarters on the second and third floors. Nearly all the original fabric of the banking section was removed when the space was converted into a shop. The present interior trim in the banking rooms was installed as part of the restoration, and its design is based on that of original trim surviving elsewhere in the building. To the west of the rear banking room has been reconstructed the fireproof "strong room". This strong room is directly over a basement vault and has been equipped with a trap door providing access to the vault.

The living quarters on the upper floors are reached by a stair hall across the west end of the building. The handsome open-well stair is framed by an elliptical arch supported on fluted pilasters. The original woodwork in the second floor rooms is nearly completely intact and ranks among the handsomest Federal woodwork in Petersburg. Especially noteworthy are the mantels and the richly treated elliptical arched opening between the two principal rooms. The opening retains its original double doors as well as complex wood tracery in the spring of the arch. The third floor rooms also contain much original woodwork, but it is much simpler in treatment than that on the second floor.

The recent conversion of these two upper floors into two apartments has necessitated some adjustment in plan to accommodate kitchens and

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bathrooms, but the principal rooms have been left unaltered. As soon as research is complete, the first floor rooms are to be outfitted as a banking museum.

9. _____ BIBLIOGRAPHY

An Act for Incorporating the Farmers' Bank of Virginia (Richmond, 1818).
Acts Passed at a General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1811-1812,
Chap. VII.

Bristow, M. E., Richmond, Capital of Virginia.

Deed Book, Hustings Court, Petersburg, vol. 5, p.15.

Deed Book, Hustings Court, Petersburg, vol. 29, p.578.

Deed Book, Hustings Court, Petersburg, vol. 40, p.63.

Deed Book, Hustings Court, Petersburg, vol. 251, p.78.

Know, John Jay, History of Banking in the United States.

Williams, Frances Leigh, They Face the Future (Richmond, 1951).

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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Petersburg Branch of the Farmers' Bank is a noteworthy example of the fine quality Federal style commercial architecture that once dominated the hearts of many of the Commonwealth's early cities. The history of this bank provides an insight into the financial history of nineteenth century Virginia.

In 1812 a group of Virginians decided to meet the growing financial and commercial needs of the Commonwealth by the formation of a new banking establishment. On February 13, 1812 the General Assembly gratified their wish by passing "An Act Incorporating the 'Farmers' Bank of Virginia'". The Bank was established in Richmond with capital stock valued at two million dollars, selling at one hundred dollars each. With the passing of the act, it was also decided that branches would be set up in Norfolk, Lynchburg, Winchester and Petersburg. As Frances Leigh Williams has pointed out in They Face the Future, "These branches...were not the same as the branch banks which we have today. Each branch had its own capital stock separate from the stock of the parent office."

This system, as M. E. Bristow has suggested in Richmond, Capital of Virginia, made "Virginia's pre-Civil War branch banks ... more nearly akin to the present Federal Reserve System than to the present day banks." The ramifications of this banking system have been elaborated by John Jay Know in his History of Banking in the United States. He has written that "each branch issued its own notes of circulation and became a complete bank will all the functions necessary to meet the requirements of the community in which it was established. The branch bank exchanged notes with the mother bank and thus promoted a wide circulation."

The Farmers' Bank of Virginia thrived and had its original charter which was to extend until June 1, 1827 re-extended in 1823-24, 1855-56 and 1861. By the time of the outbreak of the War between the States additional branches had been opened in Danville, Alexandria, Jeffersonville, Fincastle, Salem, Newbern, Lewisburg, Clarksville, Front Royal and Harrisonburg.

Early in 1816 plans materialized for the opening of a branch of the Farmers' Bank in Petersburg. On January 23, 1816 the Bank purchased a lot on the northwest corner of Bollingbrook Street and Market Lane (Cockade Alley) from Robert Bolling for \$7000. By November 1817 a bank had been built, for, on November 8 a "Banking house of Brick, three stories high covered with Slate with a parapit wall all around" was insured by the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia for \$18,000. Included in the insurance valuation were four brick outbuildings: a stable and carriage house, a kitchen, a smokehouse and a "Guard house." In accordance with the system

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of the times, the president or cashier of the bank, depending on which officer took the leading supervisory role, maintained his home in the bank building. Such was the case in Petersburg, with the chashier having his living quarters on the upper two floors, reached by a side-hall entrance separate from the banking establishment.

The banking business in Petersburg must have been rapidly expanding, for, by the 1850's there were two other banks in operation: the Exchange Bank and the Bank of Virginia. By 1860 the capital of the Farmers' Bank in Petersburg was valued at \$270,000. The bank survived the War between the States but faced destruction during the opening years of Reconstruction. In 1866 the General Assembly passed an Act requiring all state banks to be liquidated. In compliance with this law the Petersburg Bank had all its assets decded to John M. Goddin and Samuel C. Robinson who were to serve as trustees in the conversion of all assets into current money.

In settling out accounts Goddin and Robertson sold the buildings and lot on the northwest corner of Bollingbrook Street and Market Lane (Cockade Alley) to John P. Branch for \$5000 on June 25, 1867. Branch, a member of the firm of Thomas Branch and Son was living in Petersburg in 1870 but by 1879 had moved to Richmond. His firm probably used the former Bank property as a bank office until 1871, for after that year there is no mention of the firm in the Petersburg Directory. In 1879 Branch and his wife sold the property on Bollingbrook Street to John O'Conner of Petersburg for \$3,002. The land sold at this time only included the area extending as far back as the brick kitchen and did not include the back area where the brick stable building had been erected.

John O'Conner conducted a grocery and liquor business in the building and resided there until 1896. Since that time the building has not been used as a residence. In 1962 the O'Conner family sold the property to John D. Haire of Petersburg. Haire, in turn, conveyed the property to the Fort Henry Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Since that time the APVA has been engaged in the restoration of the building as a banking museum.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (1)

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37	13	58
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77	24	15
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10 acres.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff; James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: January, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 James W. Moody, Jr. Director
Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date JAN 18 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

PETERSBURG QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

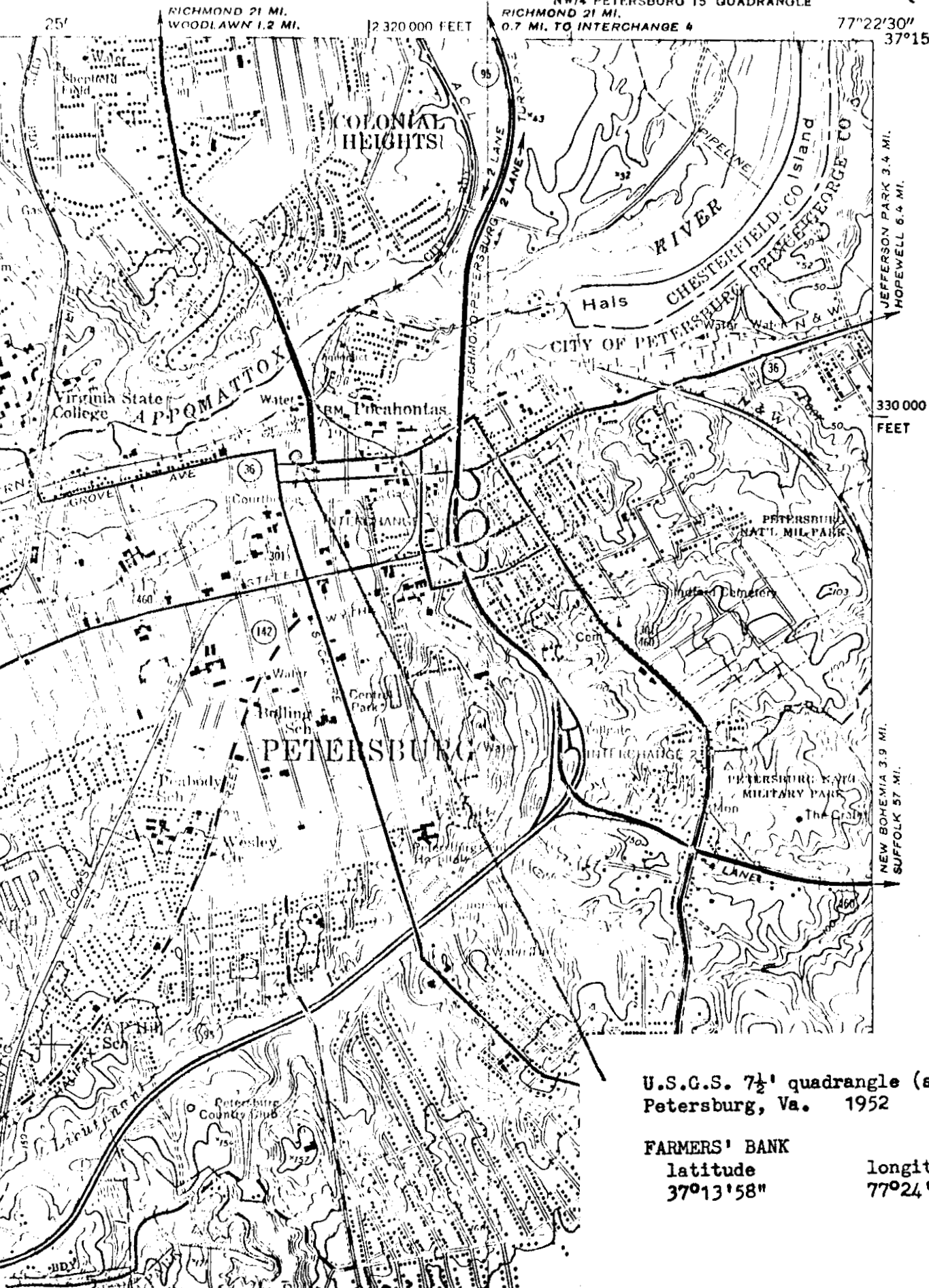
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 PETERSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

RICHMOND 21 MI.
0.7 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 4

77°22'30"
37°15'

(HOPEWELL)



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Petersburg, Va. 1952

FARMERS' BANK

latitude
37°13'58"

longitude
77°24'15"