

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

and/or common LAWYERS BUILDING

2. Location

street & number 168 - 170 West Main Avenue not for publication

city, town Gastonia vicinity of

state North Carolina code 37 county Gaston code 71

3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use                                    |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government            |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial            |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <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 type="checkbox"/> other:                |

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Charles Hutchins, M.D.

street & number 100 Wilkinson Boulevard

city, town Gastonia vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Gaston County Register of Deeds Office

street & number P.O. Box 1578 / 151 South Street

city, town Gastonia state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Kim Withers Brengle, The Architectural  
title Heritage of Gaston County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records North Carolina Division of Archives and History

city, town 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh state North Carolina

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## 7. Description

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|  |                                       |                                    |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Condition                                |                                       | Check one                          | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                    |   |

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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The First National Bank Building is a seven-story highrise located on the north side of West Main Avenue in the heart of downtown Gastonia. It is constructed of cream-colored brick with limestone and terra cotta trim in the Neo-classical architectural style, the preferred mode for office towers in the Carolinas when it was erected in 1916 - 1917. The architectural firm of Wilson and Sompayrac, one of the most distinguished in South Carolina, provided the design. Today, except for changes to the first floor interior and first floor front facade, the building is in good original condition.

In massing, the structure is a tall, narrow rectangular box. Its narrow front (south) facade faces West Main Avenue and its rear (north) elevation overlooks the mainline of the Southern Railway. The exterior facades are fully detailed on the front and rear and on the west side. The designers expected that another highrise might be built to the east one day, so they left that elevation with windowless brick walls except for a long recessed light well at the center of the facade.

The best-preserved elevation today is the rear. It was designed as an exact duplicate of the front, because it faced the railroad tracks that brought most of Gastonia's visitors to town. Throughout the facade the designers used a tripartite theme, making it three bays wide, dividing it horizontally into cornice, body and base, and also grouping windows and trim details in "threes."

The base of the rear elevation is constructed of heavy rusticated limestone with a granite water table. Openings consist of a central round-arched doorway flanked by a pair of windows. Deeply scored lines, a trademark of rusticated stonework, radiate outward from the arch and tie it to the rectangular window openings. Iron scroll-work, which may be original, protects the windows from forced entry. The massiveness and solidity of the stone and iron projects the air of permanence and conservatism that would be expected of a bank.

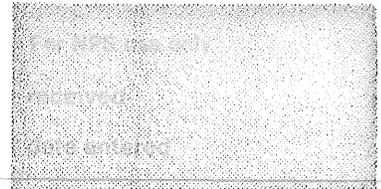
Above the first story is the six-floor "body" of the building, sheathed in brick with terra cotta trim. At the second story level of the rear facade, window openings are extremely elaborate. The openings are narrow and extend all the way to floor level. They have heavy surrounds and bracketed hoods. The center hood features a segmental arched top, while the two hoods on either side have gabled tops. Between the hoods, carved faces with heavy beards peer out from the wall. Within the openings are double French doors guarded by scroll-work railings of cast iron.

Floors three through six continue the tripartite opening motif in a simpler way. Within each plain brick opening are three double-hung one-over-one-pane sash windows; a wide unit flanked by two narrow units in a manner recalling the so-called "Chicago windows" favored by midwestern architects at the turn of the century. Between each floor is a spandrel frieze that features bricks angled to form diamond patterns, with dark tiles comprising the centers of the diamonds. On floor seven--the top-most band of window openings in the rear facade--the flat arches above the window openings are replaced with segmental arches with carved keys.

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The elaborate cornice begins above the seventh-story windows with a thin band of terra cotta molding, then a frieze course of angled brick and diamond-shaped tiles. Next is a dentil course and a band of egg-and-dart molding. Above this comes the heavy modillion cornice itself, jutting out from the facade, with rosettes between the modillions. The cornice is topped by a parapet with brick piers and terra cotta turned balusters. More terra cotta forms the balustrades and the caps of the piers.

The front elevation of the First National Bank Building is believed to have been originally just like the back, with the minor addition of a tall flag pole behind the parapet cornice. Today the rusticated first floor facade is gone, replaced with windowless pebbled panelling. Above the first floor, however, the facade remains in its original form.

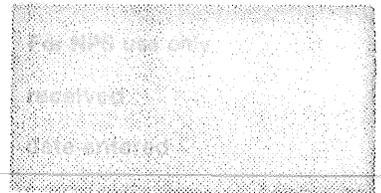
The west elevation of the building recombines elements found in the front and rear to create a facade that is eleven bays wide. A slightly recessed center section maintains the tripartite theme. The double-hung windows, the ornamental brickwork in the spandrel friezes, and even the gabled hoods over some second-story windows are continued here. A new feature is found at the center of the facade. Three massive third-story balconies with carved stone balustrades and floral work overshadow a trio of tall blind ovals of stone molding. This ornament is nearly hidden from street view today by a one-story commercial structure that has been erected flush against the side of the skyscraper. Originally this facade of the First National Bank Building faced a small park that surrounded a handsome Neo-classical one-story Federal Building occupying the land along West Main Avenue between the skyscraper and South Street.

During the skyscraper's years as a bank, one entered from West Main Avenue through an elevator lobby. Past the lobby the main Banking Room soared upward a full two stories and pre-empted the central part of the building's second story space. At the rear were one-story offices on the ground level and a grand Directors' Room on the second, which was reached by means of an elegantly curving stair just inside the building's rear entrance. Today the stair and Directors' Room survive intact. The Directors' Room is panelled from floor to ceiling in rich dark wood that is said to be mahogany, and the room also features a deeply coffered ceiling with metal chandeliers, and a massive fireplace that is surrounded by glazed tile sculpted in a pastoral scene. The Banking Room, unfortunately, has been partitioned off into offices with all new walls and a dropped ceiling. There is evidence, however, that some of the old wood panelling survives on the walls behind the new sheetrock. The elevator lobby has also been greatly changed. All that remains are the twin doors of the original elevators, with marble surrounds, an iron postal box, and cast-metal floor indicators with pointers. To the right of the elevator bank is the door to a new stair up to the front second-floor office suites over the lobby. These rooms remain in good original condition.

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| FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG., GASTONIA, N.C. | #7. DESCRIPTION | CONTINUATION PAGE 2 |

From the third through seventh floors layout and finish was nearly identical, and survives much as it was built except for the addition of paint over some surfaces that were originally varnished wood, and the movement or removal of some partitions. A corridor runs down the center of the building from the front elevator bank to the rear stairs. Its floor is decorated with tiny square mosaic tiles laid to form a colorful border. Corridor sides have marble mop boards and plaster walls up to a wooden chair rail. Above the rail, walls are of translucent rippled glass to allow natural light from the exterior windows of the offices to spill into the corridor. The corridor walls are punctuated at intervals with transomed doorways to offices. Office doors are heavy dark wood veneer with an elegant strip of light-colored wood veneer highlighting the edge. The plaster corridor ceiling is deeply coffered, though not embellished with molding or ornamental light fixtures.

Office suites with partitions and doors similar to those already described line the front of the building and the west side of the hall. On the east side of the hall there are offices at either end, but along the east side where the light well makes the building narrower are the bathrooms. They are long but tightly laid out with marble walls and partitions, and many of the early fixtures are still in place.

In a penthouse on the roof at the top of the front stairs, the massive machinery for the twin Otis elevators survives intact.

## 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/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** 1916 - 1917 **Builder/Architect** Wilson and Sompayrac

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First National Bank Building is the earlier of two skyscrapers that dominate the downtown skyline of the small textile city of Gastonia, North Carolina. The seven-story structure of cream-colored brick, terra cotta, and carved stone is the work of Wilson & Sompayrac, one of South Carolina's most distinguished architectural firms. The building was constructed 1916 - 1917 in the midst of a period of great textile prosperity in the Piedmont Carolinas. The First National Bank of Gastonia was a direct descendant of the city's first bank, and its founding officers, Laban L. Jenkins, John H. Craig, and George Washington Ragan, were leading local mill owners. Their skyscraper symbolizes that industry's vitality in the early twentieth century, and the far-reaching importance of textiles in Gastonia's economy.

### CRITERIA EVALUATION

- A. The First National Bank Building is a product of the early twentieth century textile boom which shaped the Piedmont South we know today, and which specifically transformed the hamlet of Gastonia into the principal city of Gaston County.
- B. The bank's officers were among the leading textile men in Gaston County. J. H. Craig was a director and leading stockholder in Gastonia's first two mills. L. L. Jenkins served as president of three mills, vice president of two more, and president of two smaller Gaston County banks. G. W. Ragan helped organize at least three mills and served as Mayor of Gastonia. The architect of the skyscraper was Charles Coker Wilson, one of South Carolina's most distinguished architects, who served terms as official architect of the South Carolina State House and the University of South Carolina.
- C. The First National Bank Building is one of only two examples of early twentieth century skyscraper design in Gaston County. It is a well-designed example of Neo-classical architecture with noteworthy stone and terra cotta work. With the exception of its first floor interior and first floor front facade, it remains in original condition, one of the few well-preserved early buildings in downtown Gastonia.

### HISTORICAL SKETCH

For most of the twentieth century, Gaston County has held a reputation as one of the major textile manufacturing counties in the United States. A few small mills had been built along the rushing waters of the South Fork of the Catawba River as early as the 1850's, but the first intensive mill development came during the "New South" era of the 1870's and 1880's. By the beginning of the 1910's, Gaston County boasted forty-eight mills and 480,674 spindles, more than twice as many as Guilford or Mecklenburg counties, its closest competitors.<sup>1</sup> Gastonia, at the heart of the county, became

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something of a boom city. A hamlet of 236 souls strategically located on the Charlotte and Atlanta Air Line Railroad in 1880, it grew to 5,759 people by 1910, and in 1911, the county courthouse was transferred from the neighboring Dallas community to Gastonia.<sup>2</sup>

As impressive as these early figures were, they merely set the stage for what was to take place during the 1910's. Between 1910 and 1920, the textile industry in Gaston County virtually doubled in size, to 953,485 spindles.<sup>3</sup> Much of the expansion came as a result of World War I demand for uniforms. In 1916 alone, eight new mills were established.<sup>4</sup> While some of the capital for expansion came from nearby Charlotte, other Carolina cities, and even New England, many of the textile magnates were local men whose fortunes had grown with the industry.

It was in his heady economic climate that First National Bank of Gastonia founders, Laban L. Jenkins, John H. Craig, and George Washington Ragan, decided to build a skyscraper befitting the glowing future of their bustling city. Never mind that Gastonia was in reality still a rather small town with no crushing space requirement that dictated building upward. Big neighbor Charlotte already boasted its tall Realty Building (later known as the Independence Building) and city boosters across the South were beginning to see skyscrapers as important symbols of modernity, even for towns that had, as writer W. J. Cash acerbically observed in The Mind of the South, "little more use for them than a hog has for a morning coat."<sup>5</sup>

By the 1910's, the First National Bank of Gastonia had long been a key part of the county's economic development. It was an outgrowth of the private banking house of Craig and Jenkins, which had been Gaston County's first bank when it was founded in 1887. On June 8, 1890, the Craig and Jenkins Banking Company reorganized as the First National Bank of Gastonia in order to provide larger financial resources and credit facilities.<sup>6</sup> John H. Craig served as the bank's first president and his brother-in-law, Laban L. Jenkins, was the first cashier. Prominent textile mill owner, George Washington Ragan, became First National's vice president.

From its earliest days, the First National Bank was closely associated with Gaston County's mill economy. J. H. Craig was director and leading stockholder in Gastonia's first textile factory, the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company (1887) and the city's second mill, Trenton Cotton Mills (1892). He also invested heavily in Gastonia real estate. L. L. Jenkins (1864 - 1933) served as First National's cashier until 1894 when he moved briefly to Wilmington, North Carolina. He returned to Gastonia to become president of First National Bank January 1, 1895, a position he held until 1924. By that time he had achieved a major place in Gaston County's economic life, serving as president of the Arlington Cotton Mills, the Flint Manufacturing Company, and the Gray Manufacturing Company, vice president of Trenton Cotton Mills and Grove Mills, and on the board of directors of Parkdale Mills and Arrow Mills, all of Gastonia. He was also president of the Bank of Dallas (North Carolina) and the Bank of Belmont. During

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the closing years of his life, Jenkins moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where he became president of the American National Bank. G. W. Ragan (1846 - 1936) was active not only in Gaston County mills and finance, but also in politics. He rose from vice president to serve briefly as president of the First National Bank of Gastonia in the early 1890's. Like his partner Craig, Ragan was a stockholder and director of the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company and helped organize the Trenton Cotton Mills, and he also served as president and treasurer of the Arlington Cotton Mills. In 1897, Ragan won election as Mayor of Gastonia and served one term. By the teens, he was active in Charlotte as well, where he sat on the board of directors of the Independence Trust Company. Perhaps not coincidentally, Independence Trust's offices were in Charlotte's Realty (Independence) Building, which had been the Carolina's first steel frame skyscraper when it opened in 1908.

By the 1910's, First National Bank was outgrowing its two-story brick building on the north side of Gastonia's Main Avenue. On February 25, 1915, the Bank purchased a nearby plot of land on Main Avenue from Thomas L. Craig and wife Jennie W., S. W. Buice and wife Stella H., and J. Lee Robinson and wife Alda S. The purchase price was \$20,000.

In an exuberant report typical of journalism of the period, the March 10, 1916 edition of the Gastonia Gazette proudly proclaimed:

GASTONIA TO HAVE MAGNIFICENT BANK BUILDING

Though many buildings may be found in the country larger than this, none will excel it in quality. Only the best and most expensive materials will enter into construction. It will stand as a credit not only to the bank and to the city, but to the state as well.

This handsome building will occupy the site adjoining the new Federal Building (no longer extant) on the east and will front 22 feet on Main Avenue, the site being one of the most central and conspicuous in the business center of the city. It will be 32 x 100 feet, seven stories high with a ten foot basement.... Throughout the structure will be of structural steel and re-enforced concrete....

The base of the building up to windows of the first floor will be of granite. The first story will be of limestone and the remaining six stories will be cream colored pressed brick of the finest quality. The balconies and trimmings for the second story and cornice and balustrading for the top will be of terra cotta.....<sup>9</sup>

The Travis-Wood Company of Richmond served as the general contractor and architects Wilson & Sompayrac provided the design for the skyscraper. Based in Columbia, South Carolina, Charles Coker Wilson (1864 - 1933) ranked among the state's foremost

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architects. He had earned degrees in engineering at the University of South Carolina in the 1880's before studying at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He became a leader in South Carolina's architectural community, helping to found the forerunner of the state's chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Wilson served terms as the architect of the State House in Columbia and of the University of South Carolina, and was active in drafting the state's building code. Wilson and his partners over the years designed numerous buildings in southern North Carolina as well as in his home state. The success of the First National building in Gastonia resulted in Wilson opening a Gastonia branch office during the early 1920's -- located in the First National skyscraper -- and the firm's other Gastonia commissions included the First Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Leander Gray residence, and the Arrington Hotel.<sup>10</sup>

In the building's early years, the bank occupied the entire first floor and the rear of the second floor, which contained an elaborately paneled Directors' Room. The remaining five and a half floors served as rental office space, a total of fifty-four offices. Early tenants attracted by the structure's prestige were primarily cotton brokers, mill men, lawyers, real estate firms, and insurance agents, all businesses which played major roles in Gastonia's early twentieth century development. Included were McGee, Dean & Company, cotton brokers, A. Van Covington & Company, cotton brokers, and the offices of Price Real Estate Company, Morrowbb Cotton Mills, Spencer Mountain Mills, and the Gray-Separk Group of Mills.<sup>11</sup>

Gastonia's booming textile economy during the 1900's - 1920's engendered the opening of a number of competing banking institutions. Gastonia Loan and Trust opened in 1903, Citizens National in 1905, the Bank of Gastonia in 1917, and Peoples Bank of Gastonia in 1920. In 1922, newly formed Third National Bank of Gastonia absorbed the Bank of Gastonia and in 1923 constructed a West Main Avenue skyscraper that surpassed the First National Building in size. All this expansion was built on somewhat shakey ground, however, and the Great Depression resulted in closure or reorganization of nearly every Gastonia financial institution. Among them was the First National Bank. It closed December 15, 1930 but reopened March 12, 1931. In March of 1933, it closed for the last time, a casualty of the Federal Bank Holiday, and was liquidated.<sup>12</sup>

The skyscraper continued in use as a bank for many years, however. On October 20, 1934, the newly chartered National Bank of Commerce of Gastonia purchased the building and "all furniture, fixtures and banking equipment belonging to said First National Bank of Gastonia."<sup>13</sup> The new institution's slogan was "built on confidence, growing in service," and it remained at the Main Avenue location until about 1957, when it moved to new quarters at 100 West Franklin Avenue.<sup>14</sup>

After departure of the National Bank of Commerce, the structure became known as the Lawyers Building, advertising its location near the Gaston County courthouse. The

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first floor interior was heavily remodelled and a new first floor front exterior was added. Otherwise, the building remains in substantially original form. In January 1982, local physician, D. Charles Hutchins, purchased the skyscraper and now plans a major rehabilitation/restoration program.<sup>15</sup>

NOTES FOR HISTORICAL SKETCH.

1. Annual Report of the Bureau of Labor and Printing for the State of North Carolina, 1910, pp. 160 - 197.

2. Kim Withers Brengle, The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina (Gastonia Commercial Printers, Inc., 1982), p. 15.

3. Annual Report of the Department of Labor and Printing of the State of North Carolina, 1919 - 1920, pp. 124 - 129.

4. Brengle, p. 16.

5. W. J. Cash, The Mind of the South (New York: Vintage Books, 1969), p. 224. This classic work was written in Charlotte during the 1930's and originally printed in 1941.

6. Joseph H. Separk, Gastonia and Gaston County, N.C.: Past, Present and Future (Gastonia: Kingsport Press, Inc., 1936), pp. 98 - 99.

7. All biographical information in this sketch is from Robert Allison Ragan, The Pioneer Cotton Mills of Gaston County, N.C.: the First Thirty Years (1848 - 1904) and Gaston County Textile Pioneers (Charlotte, N.C.: privately published, n.d.), unpaginated. This publication, available at area libraries, consists of photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles on early textile leaders from a wide array of original sources.

8. Gaston County Register of Deeds Office: book 114, p. 33. For an illustration of the earlier building with its handsome cast-iron and stained-glass trim, see photos in the "City of Gastonia" clipping file in the Main (Gastonia) Branch of the Gaston County Public Library.

9. Gastonia Gazette, March 10, 1916. The article includes a rendering of the structure showing its original first-floor facade.

10. Information in the files of John Wells, state architectural historian of South Carolina.

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11. City directory collection, Gaston County Public Library.

12. Separk, pp. 98 - 100.

13. Ibid., p. 127. Gaston County Register of Deeds Office: book 302, p. 616. The National Bank of Commerce assumed seventy percent of the deposit liability of the old First National. It opened with \$100,000 in authorized common capital, \$100,000 preferred, a paid-in surplus of \$40,000, and deposits of \$811,000.

14. "City of Gastonia" clipping file, and city directory collection.

15. Gaston County Register of Deeds Office: book 1388, p. 262. Dr. Charles Hutchins, interview with Joseph Schuchman and Thomas W. Hanchett, July 12, 1985.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Kim Withers Brengle, The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina (Gastonia: Commercial Printers, Inc., 1982), pp. 3 - 37, 164 - 166.  
Joseph H. Separk, Gastonia and Gaston County, N.C.: Past Present and Future (Gastonia: Kingsport Press, Inc., 1936), pp. 98 - 99, 127.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Gastonia North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

|      |   |         |   |    |   |          |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |
|------|---|---------|---|----|---|----------|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| 1    | 7 | 4       | 8 | 13 | 3 | 4        | 10 | 3 | 19 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |    |   | Northing |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |

B 

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C 

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D 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

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|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state North Carolina only code county Gaston County only code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas W. Hanchett and Joseph Schuchman, historian/architectural historians

organization date September 15, 1985

street & number 2128 Greenway Avenue telephone 704 - 333-8005

city or town Charlotte state North Carolina

# 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 *William S. Price, Jr.*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 9, 1986

For MPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

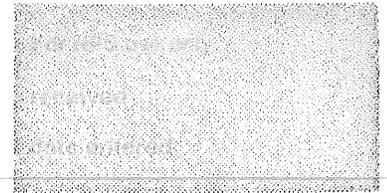
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

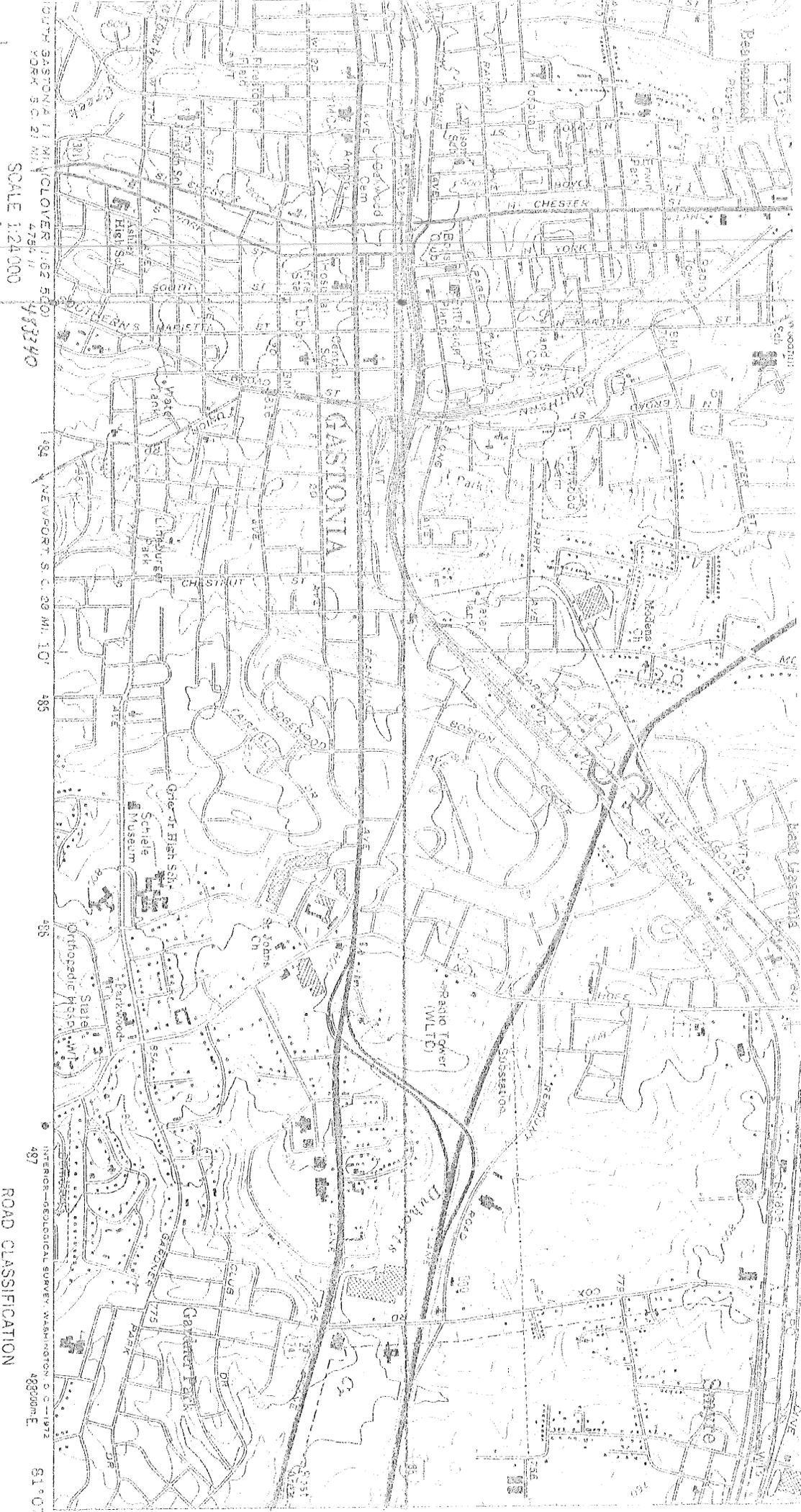
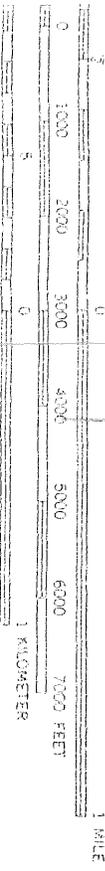
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG., GASTONIA, N.C. #10. BOUNDARY

CONTINUATION PAGE 1

BEGINNING at a stake in the North side of West Main Avenue, Southwest corner of Ragan lot, now occupied by Charles Stores, and runs thence with the North line of West Main Avenue, South 89 degrees West 32.3 feet to a stake at the Southwest corner of the west wall of the main seven-story bank building and the Southeast corner of other lands of the National Bank of Commerce of Gastonia conveyed to John K. Voehringer, Jr., by deed dated April 16, 1955; thence North 0 degrees 45 minutes West with Voehringer's East line and the West line of the west wall of said seven-story main Bank building, 101.6 feet to a point, said point being the Northwest rear corner of the said seven-story bank building; thence with the North line of the North wall of said seven-story bank building in an Easterly direction, 10 inches to a point in the North line of said North wall of the seven-story bank building; thence with the East line of the East wall of a presently one-story building conveyed to John K. Voehringer, Jr., by the aforementioned deed dated April 16, 1955, North 0 degrees 45 minutes West 13.9 feet to a stake in the Southern line of the Southern Railway Company right of way, North 84 degrees East 31.12 feet to a stake, Ragan's Northwest rear corner; thence with Ragan's West line, South 1 degree East 118.5 feet to the beginning corner.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FILE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
 (LAWYER'S BUILDING) Zone 17  
 GASTONIA NORTH Scale 1:24000  
 Northing: 3902100 Easting: 483340

- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Primary highway, hard surface
  - Secondary highway, hard surface
  - Unimproved road
  - Interstate Route
  - U.S. Route
  - State Route
  - Light-duty road, hard or improved surface

GASTONIA NORTH, N.C.  
 SW 1/4 GASTONIA 15 QUADRANGLE  
 N3515—WS107.5/7.5  
 1970

AMS 4754 I SW—SERIES V842

