

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Peoples Bank Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 242 South Queen Street N/A not for publication
city, town Kinston N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Lenoir code 107 zip code 28501

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic & Architectural Resources
of Kinston, N. C.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Price, Jr. 9-12-89
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

foundation Brick
walls Brick veneer

roof Asphalt

other Limestone
Concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Peoples Bank Building is a modest two-story, brick-veneered Classical Revival commercial structure which stands on a corner lot on Kinston's main business thoroughfare, Queen Street, in the city's principal black commercial district. It is the most architecturally sophisticated building in this district, reflecting the relative success of the company for which it was built. Other buildings are standard unembellished one- and two-story brick commercial structures dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, some of which have been extensively remodelled. The narrow main facade and south elevation are flush with the sidewalk while the building shares a party wall on the north elevation.

Constructed of cinder block sheathed in textured brick veneer, the two-story building has a flat roof with raised parapet ornamented by brick panels outlined in limestone and containing stone diamond bosses. A sheet-metal boxed cornice with unadorned frieze encircles the building on its three exposed elevations between the parapet and second-floor windows. Brick quoins decorate the corners of the building and a soldier brick mock water table extends across the facade and along the south elevation.

The building's very narrow facade (approximately 20 feet wide) contains a large arched opening with a stone surround enriched with bead and reel and acanthus-like molding. Centered in the apex of the arch is a stone console embellished with a stone eagle. Above this opening is a stone-framed stuccoed panel, which probably once displayed the bank's name, flanked by stone vertical decorative panels with raised devices, including a fruit basket, a patera and what appears to be a casket for valuables. A sign with the name "Hairy's Style Shop" now partially covers the stuccoed panel. A trio of one-over-one windows in a single opening surmount this panel. A striped barber pole is attached to the wall to the right of the arched opening, and the remains of painted wall signs survive above and below the mock water table. Behind the arched opening are recessed entrances. The central entrance originally had double-leaf wooden doors with large glass panels, set in a molded architrave surround with a transom. To the left is a wood-framed entry

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to the stairwell leading to the second floor. Modern metal and glass doors have replaced the original doors. "Evergreen Barber Shop" is painted on the central door. The letters TPB, for The Peoples Bank, are set in the black and white tile floor of the entrance area.

Paired one-over-one windows line the south elevation which faces East Bright Street, with narrow limestone panels between the first and second floors. The first-floor windows are taller than those on the second floor. Four pairs light the ground level while five pairs plus a single window in the west bay are held on the upper floor. The first floor sills are part of the mock water table; solder courses top the first floor windows. The second floor windows have header sills and lintels. The easternmost bay on the first floor contains an entrance enframed by very narrow one-over-one windows and a tall transom in line with the other first floor windows.

The rear elevation is of unglazed brick, with two segmental-arched openings on each level in its south bay; two jack-arched, multi-paned windows light the second story, while a larger multi-paned window is centered on the ground level.

The only interior area of the building to which admittance was gained was the first floor barber shop which has typical barber chairs, sinks, counters and mirrors along the south elevation and a waiting area along the north wall. Walls are plastered and the floor is covered with linoleum. It seems likely that the rest of the building was simply finished, but has undergone alterations to accommodate the various activities which have been carried out here.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture
Commerce
Ethnic Heritage: Black

ca. 1923-1931

ca. 1923

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built ca. 1923, the Peoples Bank Building is significant in the history of Kinston, North Carolina, as the site of one of only two black-owned banks to operate in the city and as the most architecturally sophisticated commercial building in Kinston's black business district. The carefully-detailed Classical Revival style building is evidence of the success of this important black enterprise and represents the black community's efforts to develop its own financial institutions. It was erected during a period in Kinston's history when population growth was only moderate but construction of numerous significant buildings occurred, including two banks, the city's first skyscraper, several new schools and many substantial residences. The bank building stands on a corner lot on South Queen Street, Kinston's main commercial thoroughfare, in what was a thriving black commercial district at the time of its construction about 1923. Its Classical Revival styling distinguishes it from other buildings surviving in the section, most of which are standard unembellished late 19th and early 20th century brick commercial buildings, several of which have been extensively remodelled. The building's associated historic context is Kinston's Era of Accelerating Prosperity, 1890-1941, and it is a member of the property type Late 19th/Early 20th Century Commercial and Industrial Buildings. The bank building's period of significance extends from the date of its construction to the year (1931) in which the bank apparently ceased to operate and the building was sold by the state Commissioner of Banks.

Historical Background

Kinston's principal black commercial district has traditionally been located along Queen Street south of King Street, and it is in this section that the firm later chartered as The Peoples Bank had its beginnings. Between 1902 and 1908 a group of black businessmen organized Holloway, Borden, Hicks and Company, to engage in the banking

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business. The 1908 Kinston City Directory indicates that the company's capital was \$2,275. Its officers were president T. B. Holloway, a grocer; first vice-president J. H. Jones, a tinner; second vice-president C. H. Bynum, a physician; and cashier J. G. Banton, a barber [City Directories].

The banking company operated in a two-story frame building which faced north on Bright Street at its southeast corner with South Queen Street; J. H. Jones and his roofing business occupied the other half of the building [City Directories; and Sanborn maps]. Across Bright Street from that site is The Peoples Bank Building. By 1916, the name of the company had been changed to Holloway, Murphy and Company, although Murphy has not been identified [City Directory]. The company retained the same officers and continued to occupy the Bright Street building.

In January 1921, the company obtained a charter to operate as the Peoples Bank with capital stock of \$25,000. Subscribers included T. B. Holloway, J. G. Banton, C. H. Bynum, and Holloway, Murphy and Company [Record of Corporations, vol. B, p. 328]. The objectives of the company were listed as follows:

- (1) To conduct a commercial banking business;
- (2) To conduct a savings banking business;
- (3) To do a general trust business in all its phases, and to have all the power incident thereto;
- (4) To act as fiscal agent, factor, executor, administrator or trustee for any person, firm or corporations upon such terms as may be agreed upon [Record of Corporations, vol. B, p. 328].

The officers remained the same. In announcing the chartering of The Peoples Bank, the Daily Free Press stated the following:

The company has been conducting a banking business a number of years, and has done much to encourage the saving habit among colored residents. White bankers of the city recommended the granting of the charter ["Negro Bank"].

The Peoples Bank continued to operate in the Bright Street building for about two years after its chartering.

The apparent success of The Peoples Bank soon demanded that the company move to a more substantial building which would reflect the position of the firm in the black community. The 1923 Kinston City

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Directory indicates the bank was still operating from the Bright Street location, but by June 1925 it had moved to a new brick-veneered two-story Classical Revival building on the northeast corner of South Queen and East Bright streets [City Directories; and Sanborn maps]. Holloway, Bynum and Banton again appear as officers of the bank in the 1928 city directory, with grocer Starr Hicks, a long-time director, serving as one of the vice-presidents [City Directories].

Unfortunately, The Peoples Bank seems to have suffered the same fate as many other banks during the Great Depression. Deed records indicate that Gurney P. Hood, North Carolina Commissioner of Banks, was forced to sell the bank's real estate in 1931, presumably after its failure [deed book 118, p. 617]. Coy Turner acquired the building in 1933 and operated a dry cleaning business there for more than twenty years [deed book 122, p. 131; and City Directories]. Other occupants have included black dentist, Dr. Richard Foy; lawyer McKinley Battle; and a branch of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, the nation's largest black-owned and managed financial institution [City Directories]. Henry G. Dove purchased the property in 1959 and has operated a barber shop on the first floor since that time [deed book 458, p. 528; and City Directories].

The area in which the bank is located experienced a steady decline beginning in the 1960s, but the South Queen Street commercial section is currently undergoing a regeneration with the aid of Community Development Block Grants.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lenoir County Register of Deeds. Land records and records of corporations.

"Negro Bank with Good Capital Here." The (Kinston, N. C.) Daily Free Press, 31 January 1921, p. 1.

For general works, see Major Bibliographical References for Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, N. C.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.033

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated is lot 17, Lenoir County Tax Map 5 in Kinston, North Carolina.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property being nominated consists of the entire parcel of land historically associated with The Peoples Bank Building.

See continuation sheet

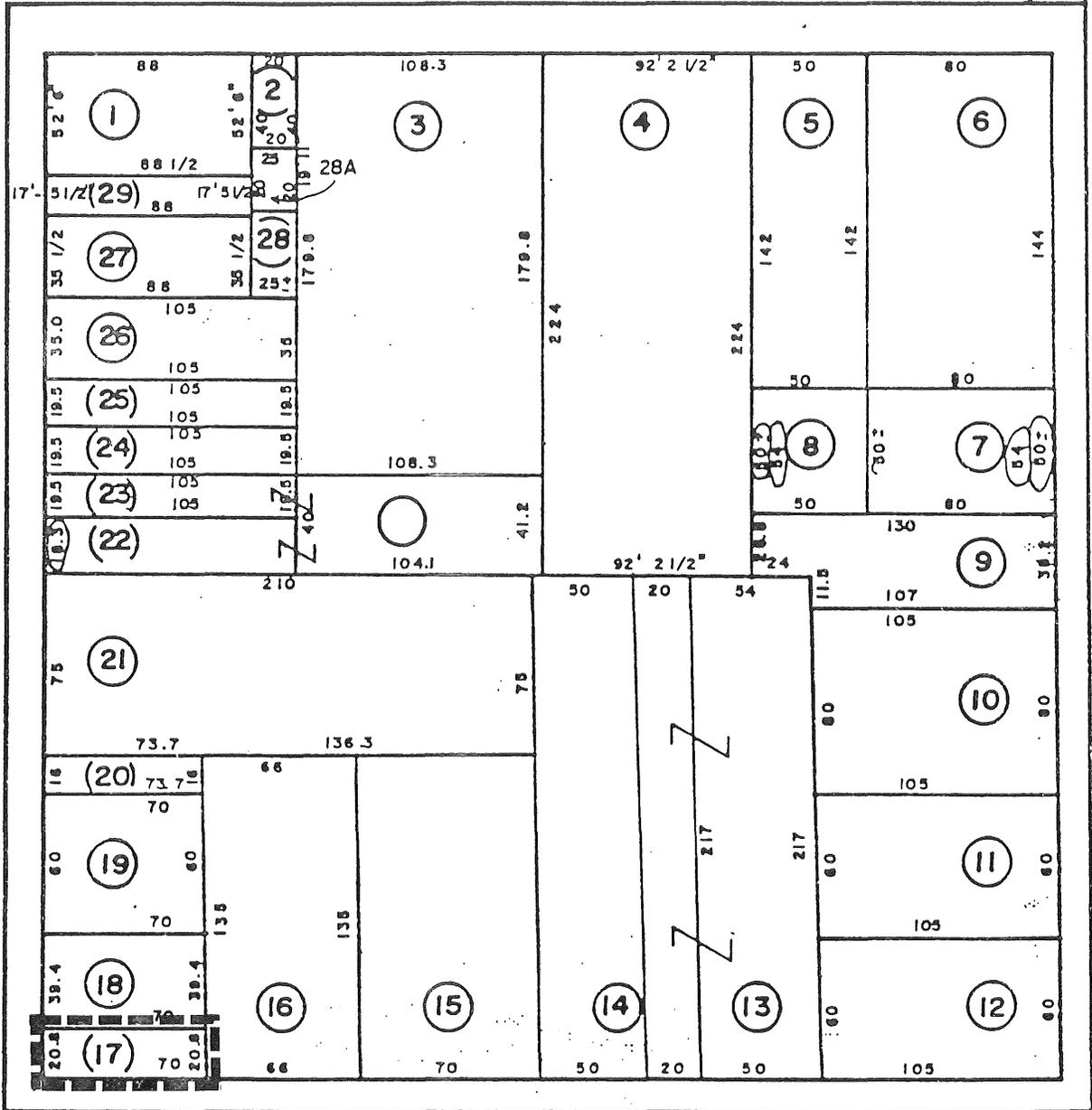
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allison H. Black, Architectural Historian
organization Black & Black, Preservation Consultants date June 1, 1989
street & number 620 Wills Forest Street telephone 919 828-4616
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27605

E. KING ST.

S. QUEEN ST.

S. MCLEWEAN ST.



E. BRIGHT ST.

Peoples Bank Building
242 S. Queen St.
Kinston, N. C.

Lenoir County Tax Map 5, Lot #17



