

PH 0505552

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 4 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 8 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Bank of Starbuck

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Main and McNeil Streets

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Starbuck

--- VICINITY OF

5th - Thomas S. Foley

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Columbia

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

___ PRIVATE

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

___ YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ NO

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Starbuck

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, Main and McNeil

CITY, TOWN

Starbuck

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Columbia County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

341 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Dayton

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

January, 1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bank of Starbuck is located near the center of a quiet agricultural village on the Tucannon River in southeastern Washington. Surrounded by rolling ranch and wheatlands that drop steeply to the Snake River canyon to the north, Starbuck is no longer the bustling railroad terminal that it once was. The Bank is one of several brick commercial structures dating from the turn-of-the-century which remain standing along the shaded downtown streets. Vacant lots and remnants of the once-prosperous business district, as well as some recently constructed residences and house trailers, occupy neighboring blocks. The bank itself faces west, at the northeast corner of Main and McNeil Streets.

The Bank of Starbuck is generally believed to have opened for business in July of 1904. The little brick structure possesses a quiet dignity typical of the institutional architecture of small towns in the developing West. It is a modest building, rectangular in plan, with simple classical details. The bank is one story in height and rests on a cement foundation. Its flat roof is encircled by a parapet with a decorative entablature on the west and south street facades.

The bank is distinguished chiefly by its arched openings on the west and south elevations. These openings are accentuated by moulded, cast stone surrounds and sills. Wooden window enframements, sash, and awning hardware remain intact, as do the doors and their movable transoms. The formal entrance to the bank, on Main Street, is itself recessed within an arched entryway. On the same elevation is a broad semi-circular arched window which has been partially boarded up.

The red brick wall surfaces of the bank's exterior contrast with its grey, cast-stone trim. Both the projecting corner pilasters and the horizontal string course below the entablature are constructed of brick-dimensioned cast stone. A cornice with mutules, egg-and-dart mouldings and a dentil course, as well as a plain frieze and tripartite architrave, are also formed of cast stone-work.

The interior of the bank has been somewhat modernized in recent years to serve as a meeting house and City Hall for the town of Starbuck. These alterations include a lowered ceiling and two newly surfaced walls. Elements of woodwork which have survived untouched include floors, five-panel doors, transoms, and surrounds, baseboards and chair rails - all stained and varnished. To the rear of the public banking room is the vault, still intact, and an adjoining office or storage area which can be entered from McNeil Street.

The Bank of Starbuck remains in relatively sound condition although it is suffering somewhat from infrequent use and lack of maintenance. It is architecturally the most sophisticated of the town's surviving commercial structures, and thus best symbolizes the zenith of Starbuck's importance as a railroad terminus.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bank of Starbuck is significant to the tiny community as one of the few commercial structures surviving from Starbuck's railroad era. Although architecturally the bank is not an unusually outstanding specimen, it is a fine example of a type: the small town bank of the American West. Permanent banks of this sort were erected when a town achieved a certain degree of stability, and when all promise of continued prosperity looked particularly bright. But, like many rapidly-built western towns founded upon a single economic base, Starbuck declined just as rapidly in wealth and population when the railroad was removed. The visible remains of that era are few, and modern intrusions dating from the 1960's construction of nearby Little Goose Dam are infringing on the town's turn-of-the-century atmosphere. The Bank is thus both a physical and symbolic tie to Starbuck's colorful past.

Starbuck in fact owes its very existence to the coming of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company. Previously, the townsite had been traversed by white men packing supplies between Walla Walla and the Blackfoot mines in Idaho. Furthermore, settlers had been gradually infiltrating the Tucannon River Valley since the 1860's. It was not until 1882 when the O. R. & N. Company constructed its main line through the area, and erected a warehouse and sectionhouse on the site, that the settlement of Starbuck materialized. The town was named for one Colonel Starbuck, a stockholder of some renown in the O. R. & N. Co. The railroad employees at the small station had immediate need for a store and a blacksmith shop, thus the birth of the town.

In 1886, a branch line of the O. R. & N. Co., was laid from Pomeroy to the main line at Starbuck. Employed on the construction project were some 300 white men and 400 Chinese. A thriving business in the transport of agricultural products developed along this branch line, and Starbuck's boom period then began in earnest. The railroad continued to expand its facilities. By 1890, the Starbuck station included a roundhouse with seven stalls, a machine shop, forge, turntable, sandhouse, two section houses, an agent's house, depot and telegraph office. Approximately eighty local men worked in the railroad's shops and yards. Starbuck functioned not only as a service center for locomotives, but also as a freight and passenger division point. The growth of this industry inspired the construction of two hotels, a schoolhouse, a saloon, and numerous commercial enterprises.

Like other western towns built of wood, Starbuck suffered the ravages of fire in its early years. In 1887, the entire business district was destroyed. In 1893, a fire demolished all of the railroad's facilities, as well as trains and shipments of coal and oil. Because it was supported by a steady railroad payroll, however, Starbuck was not as severely affected by the economic hardships of 1893-1896. The townsite was officially platted by Mr. Mary McIntosh on June 1, 1894. Wooden's Addition to the town of Starbuck was filed in 1897. A correspondent for the Columbia Chronicle of Dayton reported on December 28, 1895:

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington. Western Historical Pub. Co. 1906.

Lyman, W. D. Lyman's History of Old Walla Walla County, Vol. I. S. J. Clarke Pub. Co., Chicago, 1918.

(continued on attached sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

Latitude: 46° 31' 11"

UTM REFERENCES

Longitude: 118° 7' 35"

A

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

B

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

C

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

D

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The Bank of Starbuck occupies Lot 7, Block 2 of Wooden's Addition. The lot measures approximately 35' by 100'.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Florence K. Lentz

ORGANIZATION

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

July, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

7150 Cleanwater Lane

TELEPHONE

(206) 753-1707

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

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

Jeanne M. Welch

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 27, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE

2-8-78

DATE

2-7-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

A week ago last Friday business called me to Starbuck, and although I am quite a frequent visitor to that thriving little burg, I am always surprised by seeing new buildings under construction. Seven years ago there was not more than ten houses in the town, and no church building, and but a shabby little country school building. Now there are at least 150 dwellings, mostly cottages of modest design. The Presbyterians have a nice church building. The Methodists are erecting a church.

In the early years of the 20th Century Starbuck came of age and grew to be the second largest town in all of Columbia County. A commercial bank was opened in 1904. In 1906, the town incorporated with a population of 400. Starbuck's growth continued to be associated with the railroad. Lyman's History of Old Walla Walla County, published in 1918, contains this rosy description of Starbuck's progress:

Within the decade following incorporation, Starbuck has increased in population from about four hundred to about seven hundred and fifty. The increased railroad force and added buildings in connection with division headquarters has made substantial increases in business, and at the present the metropolis of the Tucanon is a busy, bustling little city, with a fine school building, several churches, a flourishing bank, a number of stores, and many pleasant homes embowered in trees.

Not long after this decade of prosperity, however, Starbuck's decline began. In 1922, the station was discontinued as a district terminal. In 1930 and 1932, terminal service for trainmen and for passengers was ended. The Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company was absorbed by the Union Pacific in 1936, and use of the machine shop and roundhouse in Starbuck was subsequently discontinued. These structures were dismantled in 1940, signaling a major turning point in Starbuck's history. It was not until the mid-1960's with the construction of Little Goose Dam on the Snake River, and accompanying railroad and road relocation, that Starbuck received a much-needed economic stimulus. These projects brought in new families, and resulted in the appearance of trailer courts and the opening of a few new businesses. In spite of the influx, Starbuck remains today a small and peaceful village, relatively safe in its physical isolation from the threat of unwanted development.

Little has been discovered concerning the history of the Starbuck Bank itself. It is generally thought to have opened in 1904, and was for a time known as the E. A. Mears Bank. Almost immediately after its opening trouble began. Late in July of 1904, W.C. Barkalow, Cashier, left town for the east and a substantial shortage in the accounts was discovered soon afterward. The Bank was forced into temporary closure. Barkalow was later arrested in St. Paul, Minnesota, but the outcome of his crime is unknown. Until the early 1930's the bank served the citizens of Starbuck. A description of the business in the Columbia Chronicle of December 26, 1923, hints at the prosperity of the operation:

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The Bank of Starbuck is housed in a one-story brick structure of ample dimensions to attend to the ever-increasing demands of a modern banking service.

Shortly after its final closure in the early 1930's, the bank building was taken over by the City for use as a City Hall. It continues in this capacity to the present day.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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White (John) Collection. Weller Public Library, Waitsburg, Washington. Data sheets and Waitsburg Times newsclippings on Starbuck.

Wilhelm's Magazine: The Coast. Vol. VI, No. 5. November, 1903.