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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for National Historic 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 Tennille Banking Company Building
other names/site number n.a.

2. Location

street & number 102-104 North Main Street
city, town Tennille (n.a.) vicinity of
county Washington **code** GA 303
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31089

(n.a.) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Buildings Designed by Charles Edward Choate, Constructed in Washington County, Georgia, between 1896 and 1919

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 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

6/19/94
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Edson H. Beall 7.28.94

Entered in the
National Register

Joe Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Commerce: financial institution
Commerce: specialty store
Health Care: clinic (doctor's office)

Current Functions:

Commerce: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: commercial block/storefront building

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	unknown
other	wood

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Tennille Banking Company Building is a one-story, brick, freestanding "commercial block" type building located across Main Street from the railroad tracks in the small central business district of Tennille.

The building is subdivided front-to-back into two roughly equal interior spaces; the left or northern section has been subdivided into two smaller spaces, one to the front and one to the rear. Originally the building's facade featured six bays in two groups of three, each having two round-arched windows flanking a round-arched doorway; the northern half of the storefront facade remains intact, while the southern half has been remodeled, with a false storefront facade that obscures the original arched openings. In the fanlights of the surviving round-arched windows are tiny multi-paned lights; below them are two rectangular casement windows and a brick sash. Next to each arched opening are brick panels, and around the top of the arches are brick drip moldings. The front facade features an unusually high brick parapet; the roof line is highlighted with brick corbeling. Along the north side or rear of the building are seven irregular window openings. Three of these windows are now fronted in metal bars. One former window opening now contains a door, providing access to the rear office space. The other former window openings are bricked-in flush with the wall of the building. There is an original arched door opening as well. The roofline on the east and west sides of the building is "harp" shaped at the front and the rear. There are pierced ventilators in the brick in the center back of the building. Hexagonal brick pavers are located around the front and sides of the building with a "bank" insignia in several.

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Section 7

The interior of the building looks as if there was once wainscoting, now covered in modern paneling. There are plaster walls and a recessed entrance. A Mosler bank vault is located on the first floor. Most interior details have been changed.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1900

Significant Dates:

1900

Significant Person(s):

n.a.

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Charles E. Choate, architect

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Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Tennille Banking Company Building is significant in architecture because it is one of just two commercial buildings documented as having been designed by the architect Charles Choate in Washington County during the early phase of his architectural career. Overall, the Tennille Banking Company Building conforms to commercial storefront design of the period and, in doing so, represents a simpler approach to commercial architecture than was done with Choate's contemporary Holt Banking Company Building in nearby Sandersville. Taken together, these two commercial buildings demonstrate the range and versatility of Choate's early commercial architecture.

In terms of its building type, the significant architectural features of the Tennille Banking Company Building include its freestanding compact brick mass, its "storefront" front facade (three-quarters of which survives intact), and its design emphasis on the front or main street facade. The arched front facade design differs somewhat from the typical storefront design in that it does not present large open plate-glass windows; perhaps this is a result of the fact that the building was designed primarily for a bank and not stores. The building's significant exterior details include brick corbeling and rolled brick trim along the roof line and base of the structure, and brick paneling and drip moldings on the front facade. The unusually high front and rear parapet walls, with their even more unusual curved or "harp" shaped side walls, may be a reflection of Choate's design influence. Significant interior details include a bank vault and wainscoting.

National Register Criteria

This property meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as a significant work of commercial architecture designed by Charles Choate very early in his local career. It represents one end of Choate's design spectrum.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n.a.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

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Section 8

1900--date of construction

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

The one contributing resource is the building.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Tennille Banking Company Building was used as a bank and mercantile establishment from its construction in 1900 until the bank moved to a new structure in 1969. According to Mr. Charlie Smith, former president of the Tennille Banking Company, the building historically contained one office with wood and grill partitions which did not reach the ceiling. The front windows flanked the entry. The windows had wooden panels below which were later replaced by brick. The present store facade originally had three arches, two windows and a door. A third commercial space consisted of a large back room with a large corner fireplace on the center partition side (the store had a fireplace as well). This area was Dr. E. B. McWade's dental office and never part of the bank. The bank was heated by a coal stove with a sandbox around it which attracted "sitters" who used it as a meeting place. The south section of the building has housed a grocery from Mr. Smith's earliest memories in the late 1920s. Documentation that Choate designed this structure is found in the Sandersville Progress in 1900.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See the bibliography in the multiple property documentation form.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.15 acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 330640 Northing 3645490

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property coincides with the current legal description of the property on which the building stands, represented by Lot 31 of Tax Map T-10. The boundary of the nominated property is drawn to scale by a heavy black line on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the lot historically and currently associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title (a) Dale Jaeger and Susan Casey (b) Richard Cloues
organization (a) Jaeger/Pyburn (b) Office of Historic Preservation,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
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city or town (a) Gainesville (b) Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code**
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telephone (a) 706-534-7024 (b) 404-656-2840 **date** June 3, 1994

(HPS form version 11-02-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Tennille Banking Company Building
City or Vicinity: Tennille
County: Washington
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1992

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 3. Front (Central St.) facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 3. West (North Main St.) facade; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 3. Interior, east store; photographer facing north.