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OMB No. 1024-0018

JUN 13 1991

NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 historic places 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 Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad Company Building
other names/site number n.a.

2. Location

street & number 119 Central Avenue
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(n.a.) not for publication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.

Signature of certifying official _____

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

Edson H. Beall _____ *7.28.94*

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet

**Entered in the
National Register**

Beall _____
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

_____ Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Commerce: business
Transportation: rail-related

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals: Beaux Arts

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	unknown
other	stone (trim)

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad Company Building is a two-story office building located on Central Avenue across from the railroad tracks and depot in downtown Tennille.

This is a two-story, three bay, multi-colored beige and red brick structure with a solid brick foundation and flat roof. The brickwork is elaborate with pilasters and shadow patterns created by different levels or projecting patterns of the brick. There appear to be two exterior chimneys and several interior chimneys; the chimneys on the side of the building reflect the cornice detail. Rolled brick is used as door and window trim. There is no porch on the front facade. The front doorway is elaborate with a slightly arched, pedimented doorway.

The front facade is highly detailed with stone quoins at each exterior corner and paneled brick pilasters subdividing each of the three bays. Brick dentil molding and brick parapet panels highlight the cornice of the building which is surmounted by a stone balustrade.

The windows are varied in arrangement and treatment. Those on the upper story are segmentally arched and are 12/2 on the front facade and 9/2 on the sides. On the ground floor, there are two round-arched windows flanking the front doorway on the front facade and, on the sides, 12/4 round-arched windows and a large elaborately divided arched window on the west side of the building reflecting the location of the stairway. There are also several flat arched windows: two at the rear of the structure (in the vault space) and one under the stairway.

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The building is situated on a corner lot. There is a multi-colored brick herringbone paved walk in front of the structure leading up to marble steps. In the rear yard are cedar trees and pecan trees. A marble cornerstone is located at the edge of the terrace in front of the building. The only addition to the structure is the shed porch to the rear. Also at the rear is an elaborate downspout and spigot.

The floorplan consists of a central hall with rooms on each side. A stairway is located to one side of the central hall. The floor is wood and walls are plaster with beaded wainscoting throughout with a carved flower pattern detail. Ceilings are tongue-in-groove and 13.5 feet high. Bull's-eye molding surrounds the doors with lighted transoms above. There is a simple wooden mantel in one of the side rooms and a huge pocket door in the central hall upstairs. Individual rooms are plastered and contain cornice boards. A vault with a Corinthian column treatment is located on the first floor in the back right room and displays the words, "Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad Company." The safe was constructed by the Mosler Safe Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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:

1903

Significant Dates:

1903

Significant Person(s):

n.a.

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Charles E. Choate, architect
Cyril B. Smith, architect

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad Company Building is significant in architecture because it is an excellent example of an office building reflecting the Beaux Arts style of architecture designed by the architect Charles E. Choate in Washington County and it is the only example of this property type in the geographic area of this multiple property nomination. The height, degree of architectural ornamentation, and freestanding corner location of the building make it a downtown landmark in the small community of Tennille. As a landmark building associated with the railroad, the structure also has direct ties to the economic history of the area.

The building is a good example of the Beaux Arts style of architecture applied to an office building in a small Georgia town. Characteristic architectural features of this style reflected in this building include its overall symmetry and monumental quality, its corner quoins, its "monumental" two-story brick pilasters, and classical details including pedimented front doorway, dentil molding and cornice balustrade. Other important exterior details of the building include the elaborate multi-colored brick facade with shadow patterns created by projecting levels of brick; the use of rolled brick around the doors and windows as trim is significant as it is a typical element on Charles Choate's commercial structures. Other significant exterior details include various window treatments and a large elaborately divided arched window on the side of the structure reflecting the location of the interior stairway.

The interior of the structure is significant as it contains several typical Choate design characteristics. These include tongue-and-groove wainscoting throughout the interior with a carved flower pattern on the corner blocks. The ceilings are also beaded. Bull's-eye molding surrounds the doors with light transoms above as is typical in other Choate-designed structures. Large bulbous newel posts are located at the staircase entrance. Together, these elements are significant examples of Choate's well-proportioned architectural designs and also of a classical building tradition.

This is the only example of the Beaux Arts style of architecture in the buildings associated with Charles Choate during his early career in Washington County. Most of Choate's local commissions were for houses, which did not lend themselves as readily to this style of architecture. However, the use of this style in Choate's single office building commission, for a major local corporate client,

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demonstrated his familiarity with and competency in working with the prevailing architectural styles. At the time this building was designed and constructed, Choate had established an office in Augusta, some sixty miles away, and was working with a new draftsman, Cyril B. Smith, who apparently assisted Choate with the drawings for this building.

This building would also be significant in terms of transportation history under National Register Criterion A for its associations with the Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad, the first railroad to come through Washington County. However, in the context of this architectural nomination of buildings and structures designed by Charles E. Choate, this area of significance has not been fully documented.

National Register Criteria

This property meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as an exceptionally significant work of commercial architecture designed by Charles Choate very early in his local career.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n.a.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1903--date of construction

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

The one contributing resource is the building.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

According to an announcement in the Sandersville Progress, construction on the Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad Building was completed in 1903. It was the operational headquarters of the newly formed Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad, a short line which connected Tennille through Wrightsville to the Central of Georgia Railroad, a trunk line, in Dublin, some thirty miles away. This short

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line provided the first rail transportation in Tennille and brought about significant economic development in the area, including the establishment of new local industries like the Washington Manufacturing Company (also in 1903) and the regional kaolin mining industry. By the mid-1920s, however, the railroad moved its offices to Dublin, and the building was vacant. For a very short time in 1930 the building was used as a temporary school while the present one-story Tennille School was under construction. A local group of World War I veterans who began American Legion Post #94 in May 1931 received the property on February 27, 1932; the American Legion Post met upstairs until 1946, while J. W. Gladin, a local carpenter, and his family lived downstairs. The building was then sold and used for storage until recently when it was purchased and converted into a home.

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

Acreeage of Property 0.25 acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 330520 Northing 3645330

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property coincides with the current legal description of the property on which the building stands at the corner of Central Avenue and First Street in downtown Tennille, represented by Lot 43 of Tax Map T-10. The boundary of the nominated property is marked to scale by a heavy black line on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the parcel of land at the corner of Central Avenue and First Street in downtown Tennille currently and historically associated with the Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad Company 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
street & number (a) 210 Washington Street (b) 205 Butler Street,
Suite 1462
city or town (a) Gainesville (b) Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code**
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(HPS form version 11-02-90)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad 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):

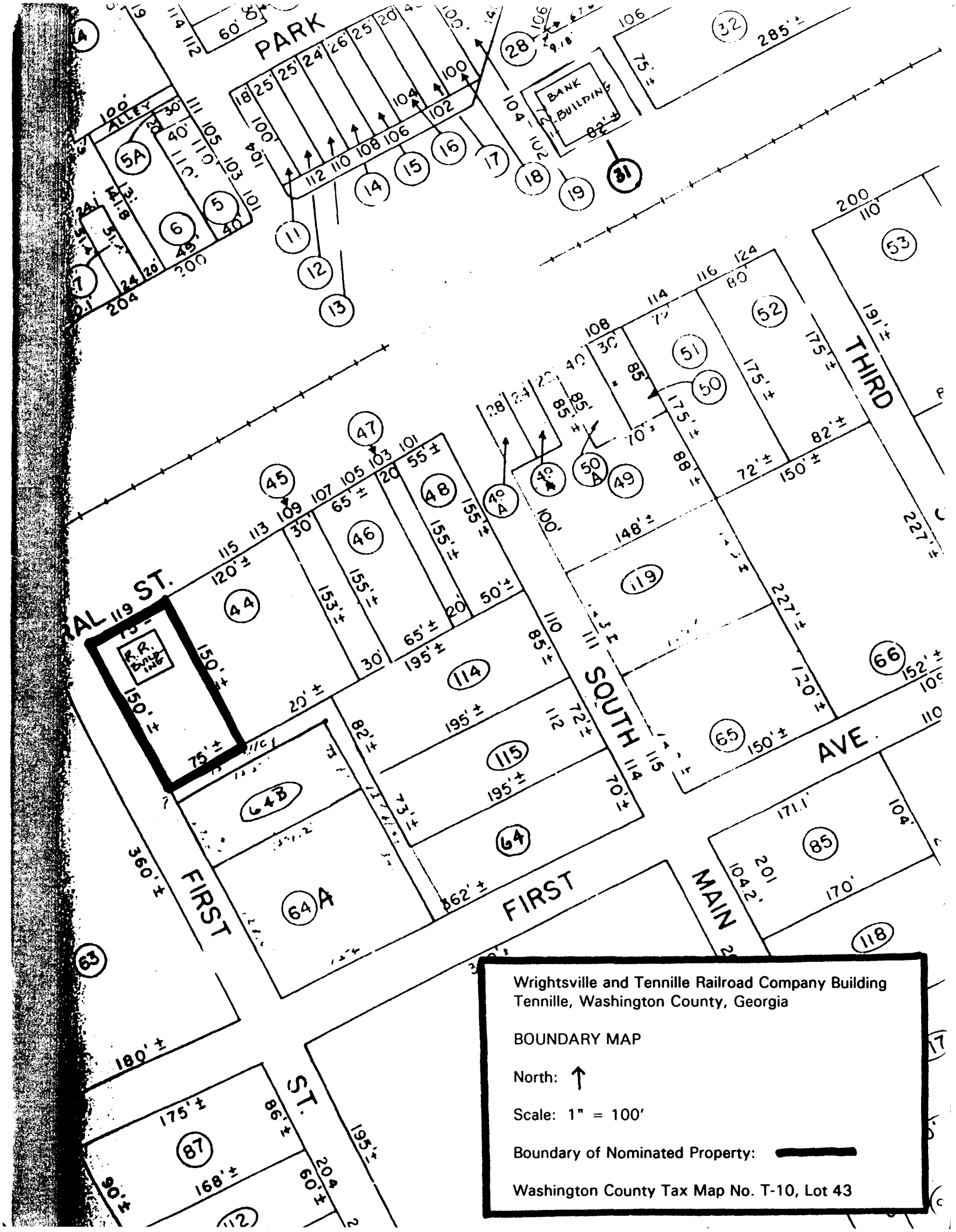
1 of 5. Front (north or Central St.) facade; photographer facing southeast.

2 of 5. Rear of building; photographer facing north.

3 of 5. Front lobby and former ticket window; photographer facing northeast.

4 of 5. Central hallway looking toward rear of building; stairway to right; photographer facing south.

5 of 5. Rooms on ground floor, from west to east across central hallway; photographer facing northeast.



Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad Company Building
 Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

BOUNDARY MAP

North: ↑

Scale: 1" = 100'

Boundary of Nominated Property: **—————**

Washington County Tax Map No. T-10, Lot 43

Wrightsville and Tennille Railroad Company Building
Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

North: ↘

Scale: not to scale

