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() NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Lower Richland County Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Farmers and Merchants Bank Building

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Old Eastover Post Office

LOCATION: Main Street, Eastover

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Ray Sweat
P.O. Box 104
Eastover, S. C. 29044

DESCRIPTION

The Farmers and Merchants Bank Building is a two-story, brick and cast-stone commercial building constructed in 1910. Minor alterations and additions have not destroyed the building's architectural integrity.

The building has primary facades on Main and Henry Streets, with an angled corner entrance as its primary feature. This southeast entrance has an arched entryway with double doors and a semicircular fanlight, which are framed in a cast-stone tabernacle frame with Tuscan pilasters, volute brackets, and an entablature carrying a second-floor balcony. Two French doorways open on this balcony, which has an iron railing.

The Main Street (south) elevation has a wooden storefront with nearly all its elements intact at its west end. A single doorway is adjacent. A large arched doorway with a semicircular head is at the east end, by the corner entry. Seven four-over-four-light sash are on the second story of this elevation.

The Henry Street (east) elevation has three arched doorways with brick voussoirs and semicircular fanlights. Six four-over-four windows light the second floor. Two brick chimneys rise above the roof. A frame pent roof with exposed rafter tails carrying its eaves shelters both the south and east elevations; while the main roof, behind the pent roof, is flat.

The building's north (rear) elevation is obscured by a cinder block addition, while the west wall is a party wall.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
Commerce

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: S (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Farmers and Merchants Bank Building is significant as a good example of early twentieth century commercial architecture. Designed by the Columbia architectural firm of Wilson and Sompayrac and constructed by Weston and Brooker in 1910, this building was planned as a multi-purpose building.¹ In addition to the bank, accessed at the corner, the building housed the W.M. Hunt Furniture Store on its Main Street facade. Between the two an open street entrance led upstairs to a doctor's office and rental rooms for single men.²

Farmers and Merchants Bank was granted its charter of incorporation on April 12, 1910, and was established by Richard Singleton and Julian A. Byrd with \$25,000 in capital.³ On April 23, 1910, a board of directors and bank officers were elected. The directors were as follows: Richard Singleton, Julian A. Byrd, W.J. Rivers, M.D., G.C. Stuart, M.D., H.G. Bates, J.C. Eason, F.G. Auld, Edwin Wales Robertson, and A.G. Clarkson. Singleton was elected president and Byrd to all other offices.⁴

The bank remained chartered until June 22, 1954, when incorporation was cancelled.⁵ The bank had apparently ceased operations some time before that. It appears that Farmers and Merchants Bank survived both the boll weevil disaster of the late 1910s and early 1920s, and the early years of the Great Depression; however by 1937, the portion of the building occupied by the bank had become a post office and library.⁶

ACREAGE: Approximately .14 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Richland County tax map #36807, Block 14, Parcel 8, with a scale of 1 inch equalling 100 feet. It includes the historic commercial building and the remainder of the acreage in the parcel.

QUAD NAME: Eastover, S. C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/528283/3748433

OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Cornerstone of building.
- (2) Interview with Marion Haithcock, Eastover, S. C., June 1980.
- (3) Charter of Farmers and Merchants Bank, #6057, Records of the Secretary of State of South Carolina, Corporate Charter Division, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.
- (4) Ibid.
- (5) Ibid.; Code of Laws of South Carolina Vol. 1, 1952 (Charlottesville, VA.: The Michie Company, 1952), pp. 1105-1106.
- (6) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Eastover, S. C., 1937.